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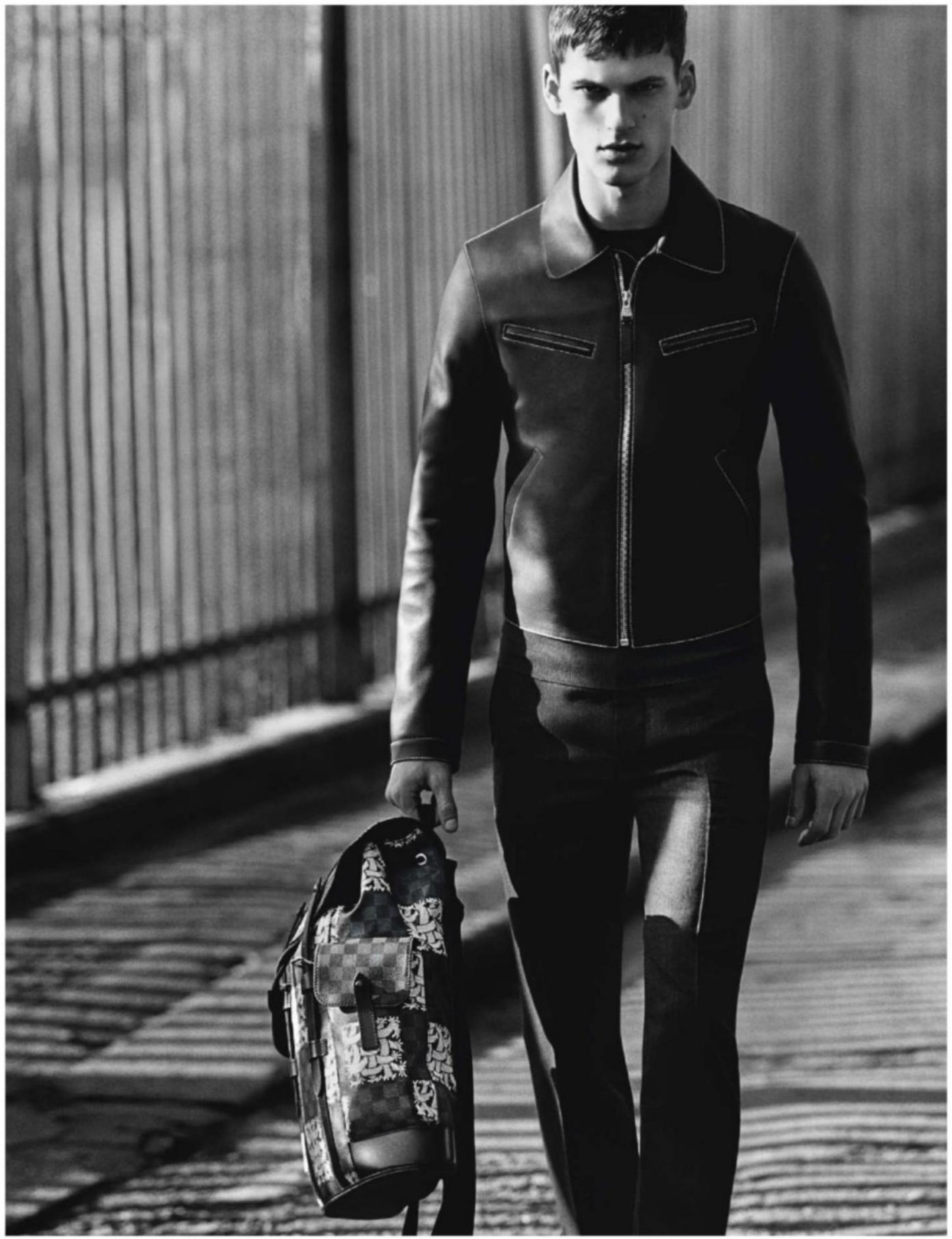
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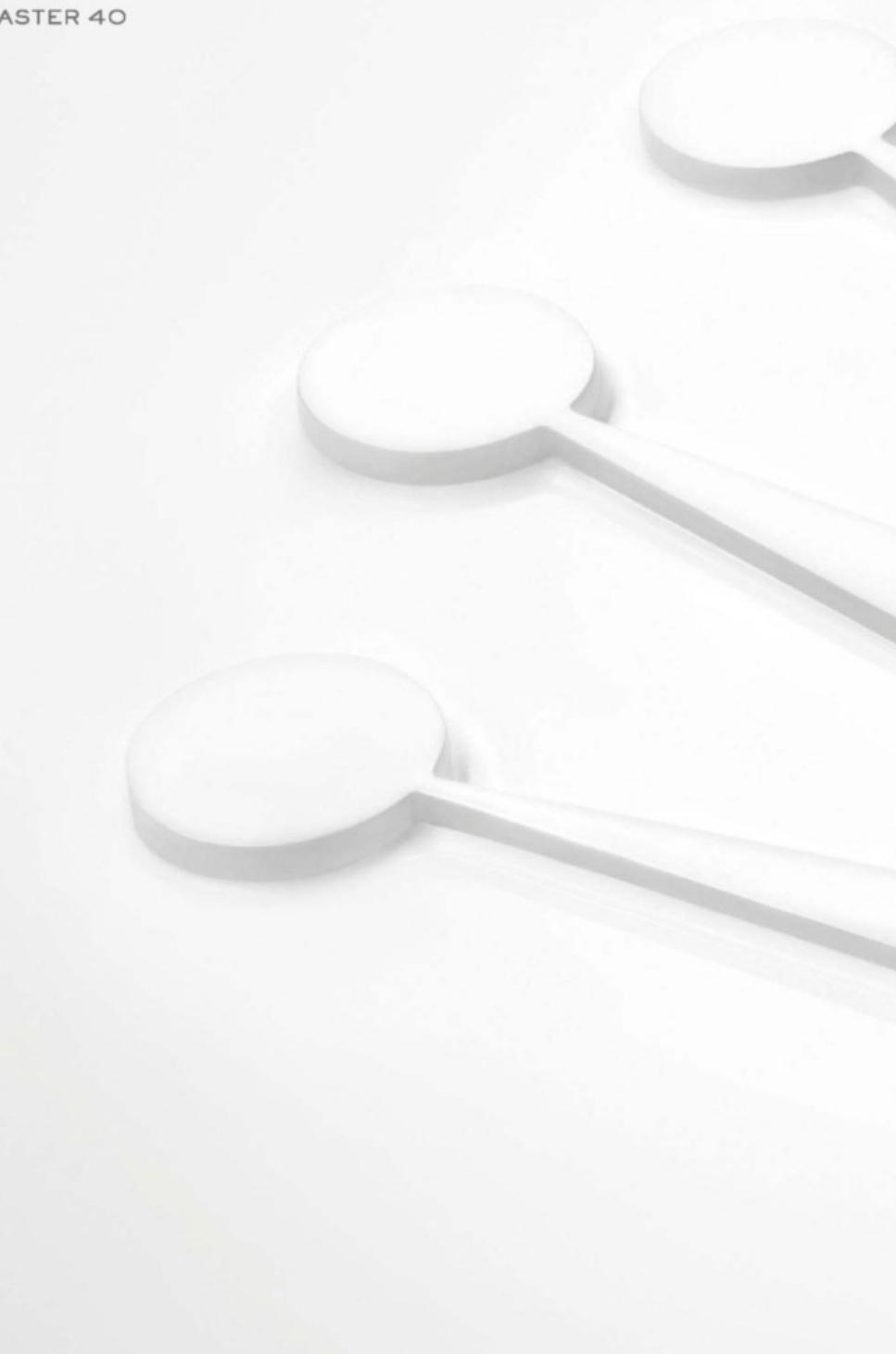


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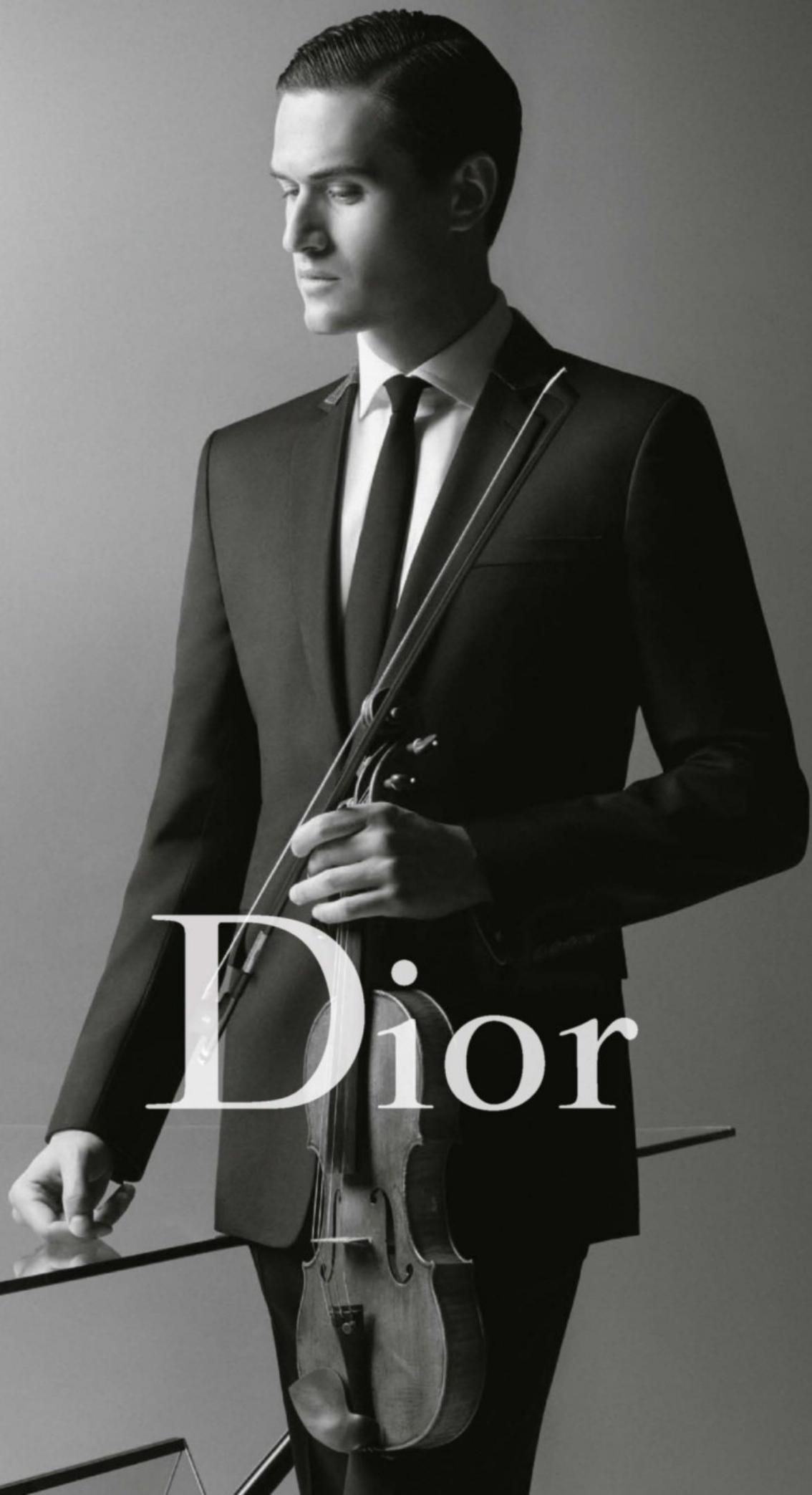


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Varun Dhawan is the heartthrob of this decade

ON THE COVER
But he's not sure if he can trust you.
By Dave Besseling



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Autumn/Winter
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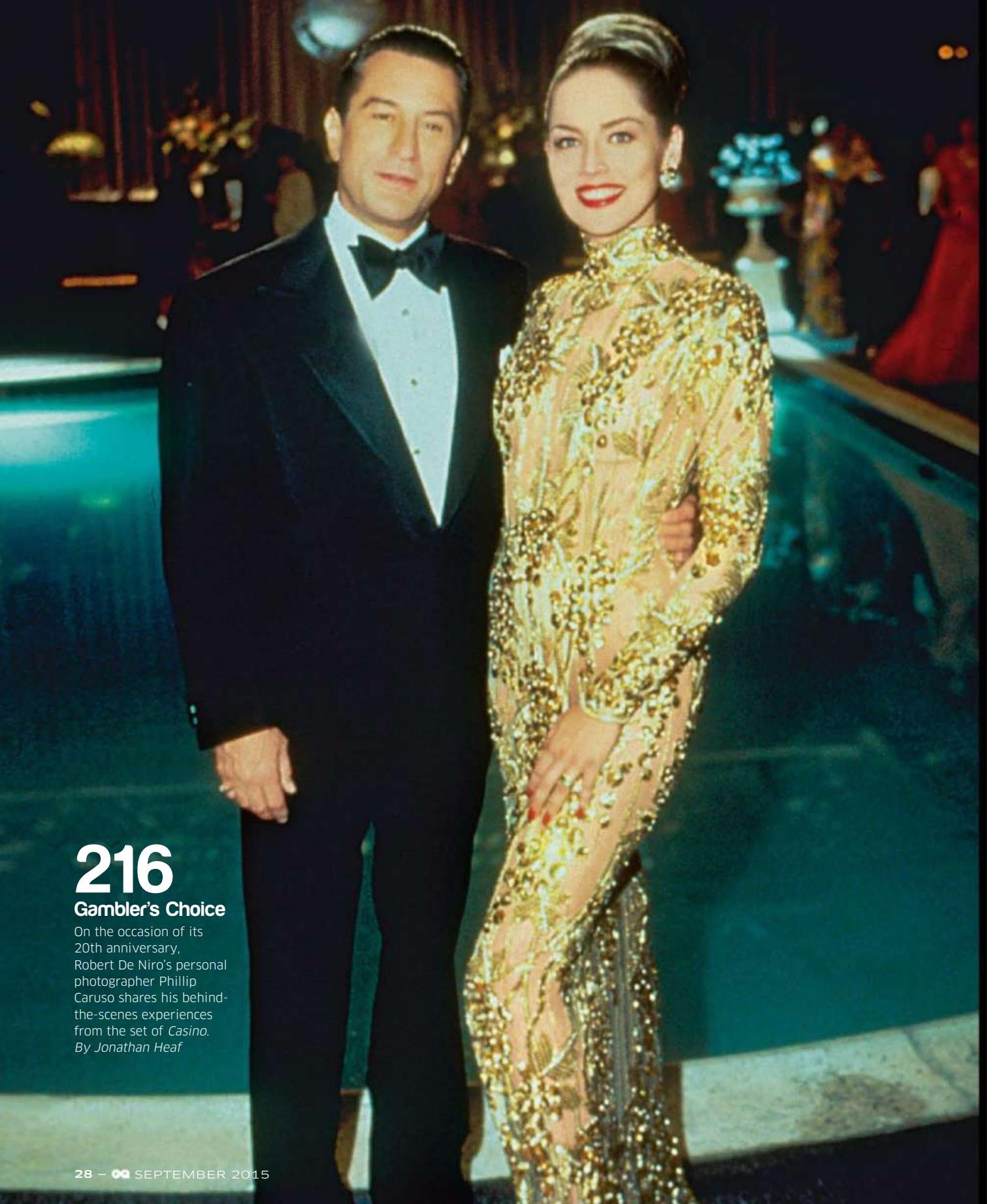
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Gambler's Choice

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By Jonathan Heaf

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ON THE COVER The coolest designers around the globe have introduced new style trends - and we've picked the best. By Shivangi Lolayekar & Vijendra Bhardwaj

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Taste: all that matters this month; the Swedes have drinking – and life – figured out

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The Ziro Festival of Music is not without its hair-raising stories; meet five of the new generation of Indian film-makers and actors taking independent cinema by storm; a much-needed rant against messy pissers; the several avatars of Johnny Depp, plus the book and album releases of the month; on the GQ Playlist: pun-loving duo Sulk Station; Pierce Brosnan once said "no" to Batman (*Holy Hash Lab!*)

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How to beard right; the perfect recipe for seduction includes Barcelona and Hugo Boss' newest fragrance



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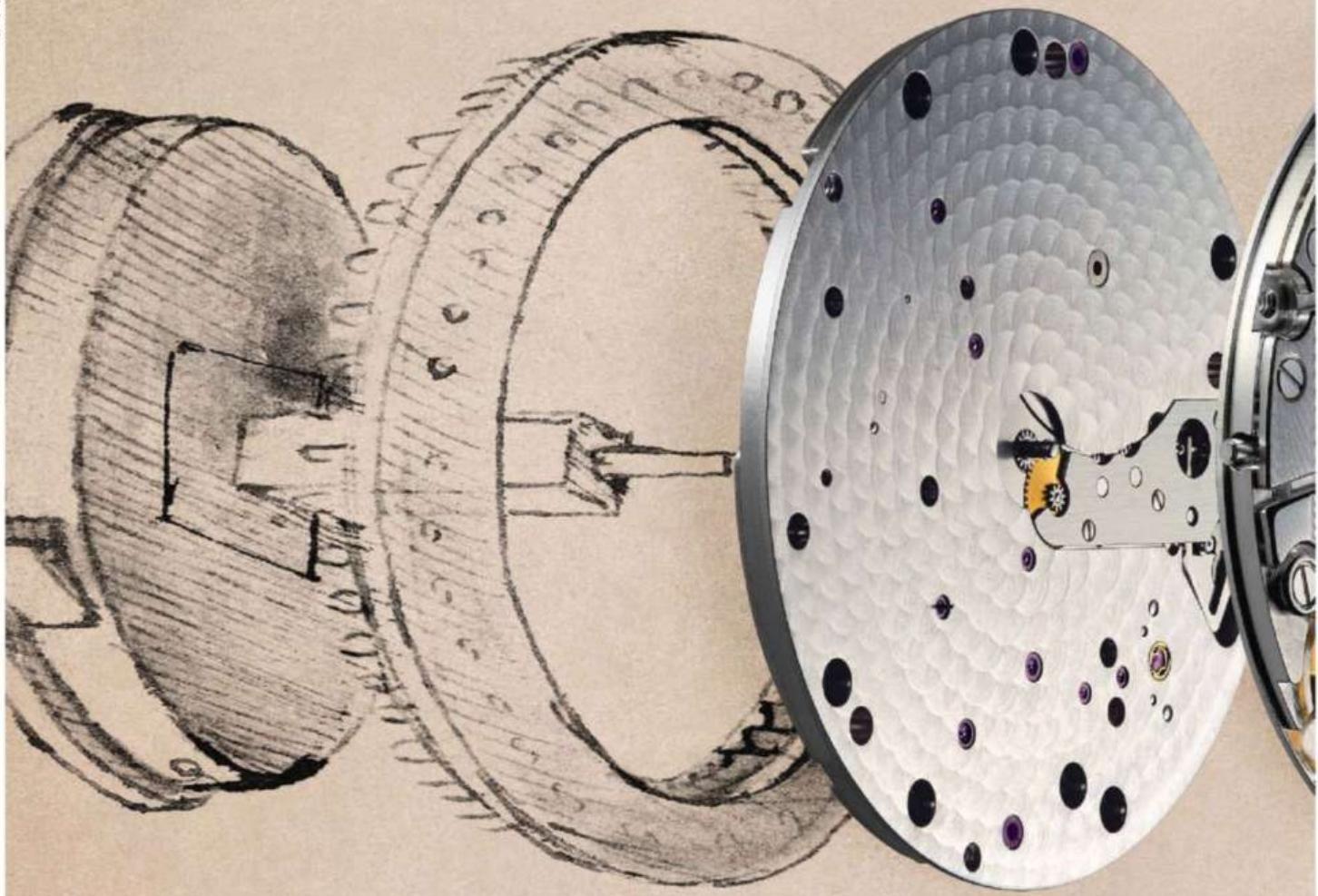
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ROMA



Letter
from the
Editor

Past, Present, Future

Earlier this year, I attended a dinner hosted by Sir Paul Smith in Paris on the eve of his Autumn/Winter menswear show. The venue he chose was the decadent Hotel D'Evreux, a 17th-century mansion located across Place Vendôme – its walls draped with oil paintings of French aristocrats and illuminated by giant candles. Seated around the ornate tables were GQ chief editors from across the world, each being waited on by liveried staff who seemed almost comically French in manner, the courses emerging dramatically from under heavy silver cloches. The whole atmosphere oozed an Age-of-Enlightenment vibe – and it felt like Voltaire and Rousseau might be plotting revolution in the room next door.

As soon as dessert ended, Paul Smith hurled a paper plane toward me – a childlike glint in his eye. A few seconds later, he guffawed and fired again – this time aiming for my counterparts from Russia and Brazil seated across the room. His aim was deadly. The rest of us quickly noticed a bowl stacked with paper planes at the centre of each table and launched our own missiles. The formal atmosphere was suddenly punctured and a hilarious mock World War 3 ensued – a moment of genuine bonhomie.

This is the kind of fun that forms the backdrop to fashion week, and it filtered through while we created this month's Trend Report, which pinpoints the major fashion direction of the winter season.

Yet the most impressive thing we've built recently is the *GQ* Digital Edition app, available now on Android and iOS. In fact, the buzz around it is so strong that Apple featured it as the best new app on its store. This exciting hybrid product features a web feed for free – that serves up buzzing, topical *GQ* content – as well as the month's lush, stylized magazine stories that can be unlocked by simply **subscribing**. So go ahead, give it a try and enter our Digital Den.

CHE KURRIEN
Editor



HISTORY AND HEROES.



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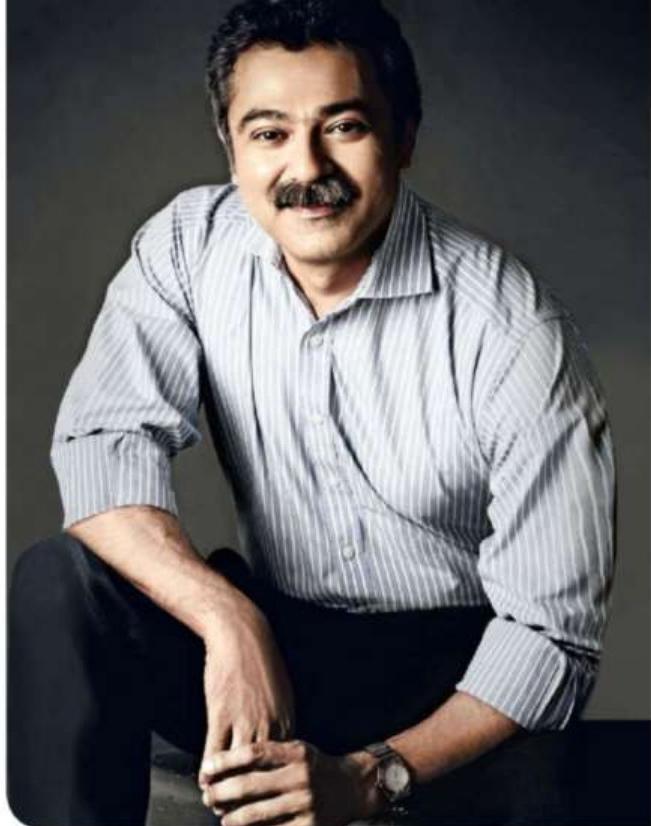


ARJUN MARK

WHO: Photographer

WHAT: Gets cover star Varun Dhawan moving and shaking, page 122

ONE DIRECTION: "The whole team landed up at the wrong location - we were travelling separately and the GPS misled us. When we got there, we discovered another shoot was on. To top it off, they had a vanity van for a Varun (not ours, of course). Imagine that!"



ANISH TRIVEDI

WHO: Author, survivor of two surgeries

WHAT: Goes undercover at a Mumbai hospital in "The Great Indian Surgery", page 196

'SUP, DOC: "Don't listen to advice beforehand. Everyone will always have a better option than what your doctor has suggested - too bad none of them actually has a medical degree."



TARUN VISHWA

WHO: Photographer

WHAT: Gives you a first look at the season's coolest ensembles, page 202

BRINGING SEXY BACK: "We had a bunch of good-looking, sharply dressed guys, a stunning girl and two kittens - all of whom made it very hard to tell who was the biggest poser on set!"



SHIVANGI LOLAYEKAR

WHO: Fashion Features Editor, GQ India

WHAT: Breaks down the biggest trends from Autumn/Winter 2015-16 Fashion Week, page 133

THE HIGHLIGHTS: "This season, it was about Dries Van Noten's spectacular show, attending Louis Vuitton's hedonistic after-party, and meeting Miles Teller at the Prada runway - not necessarily in that order."



CLARE ARNI

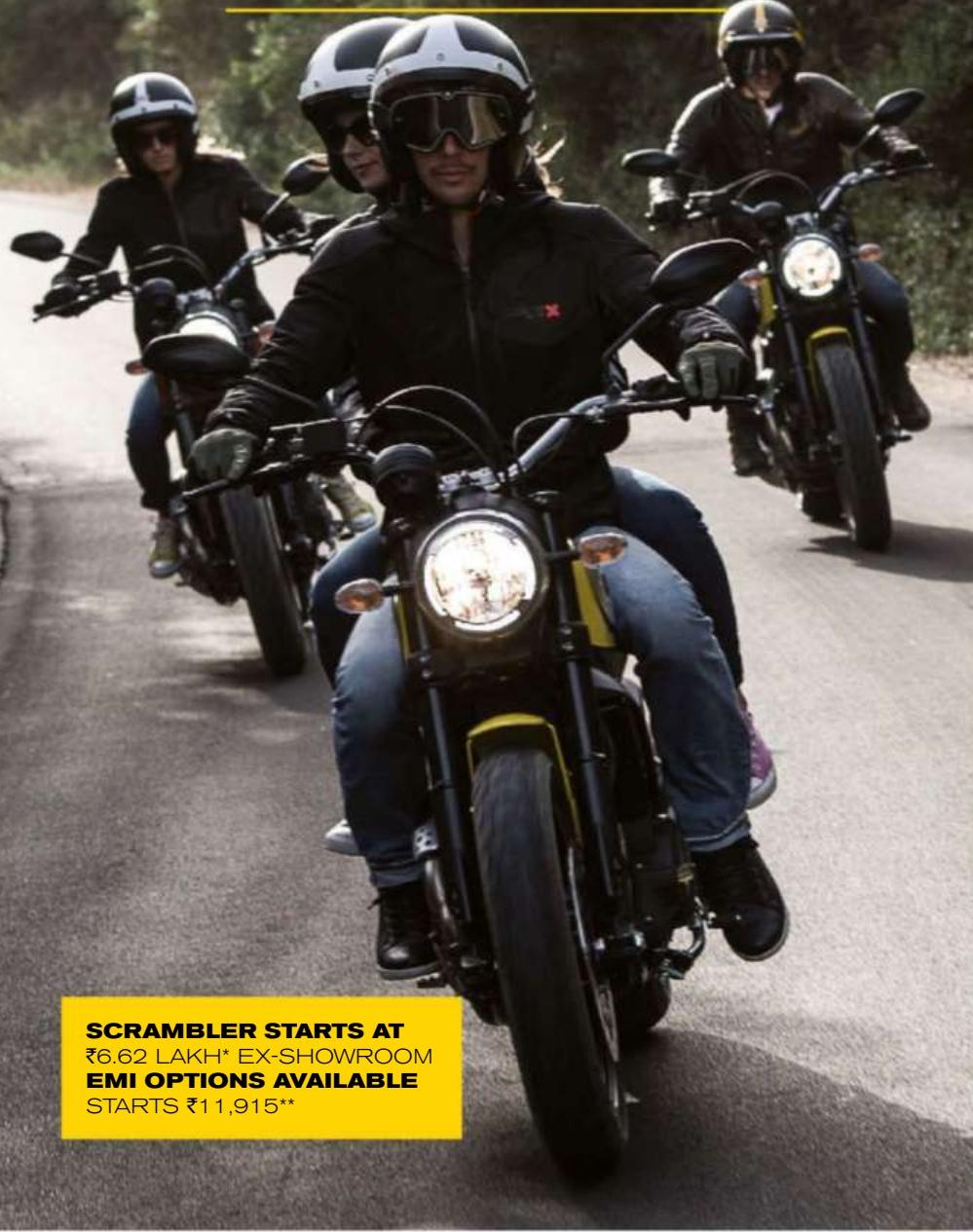
WHO: Photographer

WHAT: Visits the Kunde Habba in Coorg, and lives to tell the tale, page 168

HUBBA HUBBA: "An oppressed community going absolutely bonkers once a year, doing and saying anything they want to and wearing a brilliant combination of forest plants and ghastly, tacky Western womens wear? This was one of the most extraordinary experiences I've ever had and I can't wait to go back next year."

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black & whites

from

BLACKBERRYS



A full-page advertisement featuring a man in a dark, textured three-piece suit, white shirt, and tie, standing on a bridge at night. He is looking off to the side with his hands in his pockets. The background shows a blurred city skyline with lights.

go sharp

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SHAHID KAPOOR
IS THE NEW-AGE
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WHAT THE
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TIME IS THE ESSENCE WE ARE MADE OF

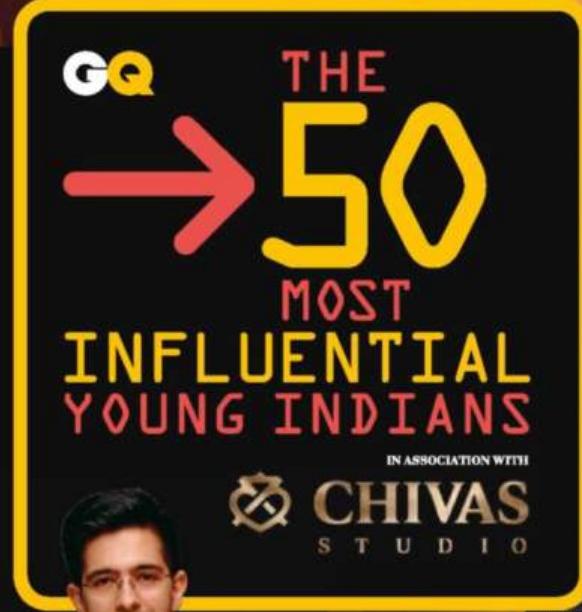
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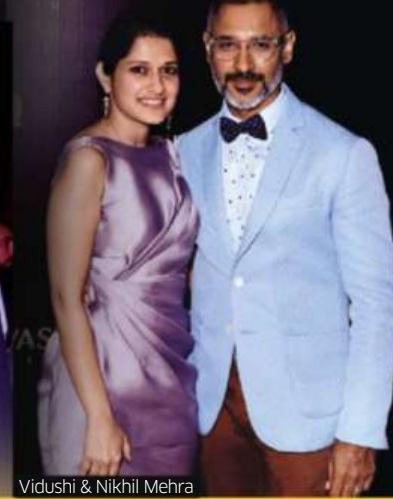
AAP's Raghav Chadha



BCCI's Anurag Thakur & Alex Kuruvilla



Che Kurrien & Farhan Akhtar



Vidushi & Nikhil Mehra



Ace designer Rahul Mishra



Xiaomi's
Manu Jain



Aditi Damle & Artist Sameer Kulavoor

GQaccess

WHAT: The 50 Most Influential Young Indians 2015

WHERE: The Oberoi, Gurgaon

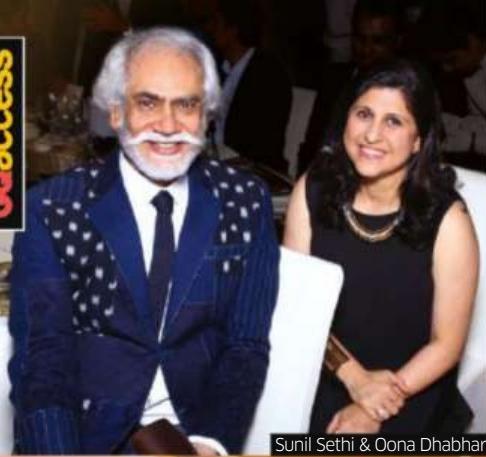
GQ's celebration of "The 50 Most Influential Young Indians", held in association with Chivas and TV partner CNBC TV18, was a high-powered networking affair that attracted influencers across the fields of business, hospitality, media, politics, entertainment, music and film. Farhan Akhtar set the tone with an engaging discussion about the rules to success, the perils of fame, and yoga fanatics.



Sanjay Sree & Wipro's Rishad Premji

Chivas bar





Chef Manu Chandra



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It knows the road
The conditions
The golf course
The corner shop
The midnight spot
The song you want to hear
And the call
you want to make



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WHY THE SWedes HAVE IT ALL FIGURED OUT

TASTE

— ALL THAT MATTERS THIS MONTH —

THE RESTAURANT

JAMIE'S ITALIAN | Ambience Mall, Delhi

One of television's most recognizable chefs, celebrity restaurateur Jamie Oliver will open his signature Italian restaurant in Delhi this month, following the earlier launch of his pizzeria. The 4,000 sqft space will be similar to his popular diners in the UK, "with a few more veggie options and a kick of extra chilli for the hotter dishes." The menu has a Nineties' classic feel to it with espresso martinis, handmade pastas and plump plates of antipasti. Featured here is the Chicken Milanese stuffed with fontal cheese, breadcrumbed, topped with an oozy golden egg, and served up with his famous rustic candour.

THE TREND

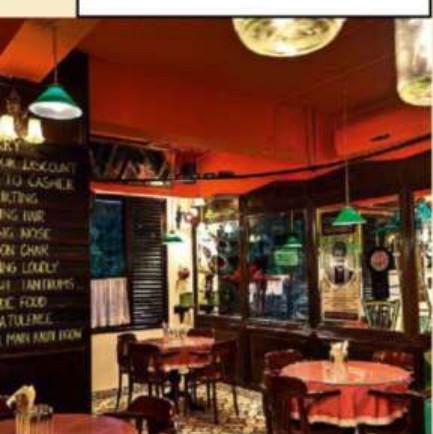
BARREL-AGED COCKTAILS

There's something about oak. It does to wines and whiskies what little else can. So why not cocktails?

GPS	IN A NUTSHELL	THE MIX	THE DOUGH	NEED TO KNOW
	THE HUNGRY MONKEY, Safdarjung, Delhi	As smooth as the cigar you'll want to pair it with	Bourbon whisky, Angostura bitters and sugar, garnished with an orange peel	₹675 + taxes
	PCO , Vasant Vihar, Delhi	Not for the faint-hearted	Gin, campari and sweet vermouth, garnished with an orange peel	₹1,000 + taxes
	ROMANO'S , JW Marriott Hotel, Mumbai Sahar	Scottish Christmas in a glass	The Glenlivet scotch, Glenfiddich scotch, Havana Club rum, 7-year-old chocolate bitters and vanilla. Smoked with apple wood and garnished with a roasted cinnamon stick	₹990 + taxes
	BANG , The Ritz-Carlton, Bengaluru	Edgy and unusual	Port wine, Peychaud bitters, gin and saffron	₹975 + taxes

TASTE

ALL THAT MATTERS THIS MONTH



WHERE GQ WILL BE EATING THIS MONTH

SODABOTTLEOPENERWALA, Mumbai

The eccentric, colourful, Irani café – a dying breed – is recreated by AD Singh in this genial restaurant chain dedicated to Parsi fare. First launched in Delhi in 2013, this month SBOW now makes its way to Mumbai, where the concept will strike a particularly nostalgic chord. On the menu are favourites like *patrani macchi*, *salli boti* and *lagan nu custard*, served up underneath cuckoo clocks and television sets blaring old TV programmes.



DELHI CLUBHOUSE, Delhi

Based on iconic colonial clubs like the Tollygunge club in Calcutta, Marut Sikka's new restaurant hopes to offer the same old-world atmosphere and comfort food typical of grand old clubs, without the membership waitlist or exorbitant fees. Expect to sip on classic cocktails amid Raj-era interiors and white glove service.

THE INJERA CHRONICLES, Mumbai

Curated by Trekurious, an innovative new platform that introduces hard-to-find experiences, this single evening dedicated to Ethiopian food promises to be much more than just a meal. Over injera bread and meat stew, home chef Ananya Banerjee, who has been studying African cuisine for years, promises a cultural exchange. trekurious.com





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TASTE

ALL THAT MATTERS THIS MONTH



THE BOTTLE

CHIVAS REGAL EXTRA

Blended scotch can ruin your night (and the next morning) if it's not well-made, but a good bottle and a little bit of ice can make for the perfect nightcap. Especially if the brew's been aged in sherry casks to morph any harshness into smooth, golden juice. From the Chivas Brothers' inventory built over the years, Extra is a new blend of rare whiskies and malts matured in barrels that were initially used for **Oloroso sherry** in Spanish bodegas and still carry its sweetness. It's a solid addition to your home bar. Should you use it for a standard pour, an **Old Fashioned** or a **Manhattan**? We recommend trying all three.

Available across Duty Free shops in India
Chivas.com



THE HOTEL

BLOOMROOMS | Bengaluru

If you strip down a 5-star hotel to its individual components, you will find that not many of the benefits actually apply to you. You won't be eating at all the fine-dining restaurants, you haven't got time for the spa or the pool and you can't remember the last time you had a meeting in an actual hotel conference room. But you will be charged for these facilities as part of your room rate – about 60 per cent extra, according to Tom Welbury of **bloomrooms**. So what if you just paid for the stuff you need – a cloud

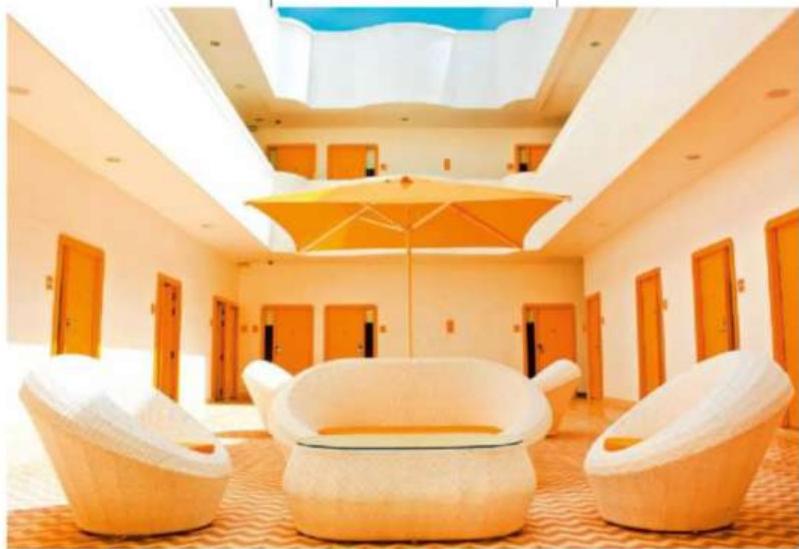
bed, an award-winning rain shower, bath products from British luxury brand Gilchrist & Soams, and a smiling, helpful receptionist?

First launched in Delhi in 2013, bloomrooms, the bright art-deco

hotel, surrounded by a peeling, chaotic Paharganj, is a pared-down, practical approach to luxury. The rooms are small, but cleverly and ergonomically designed, in a fashionable,

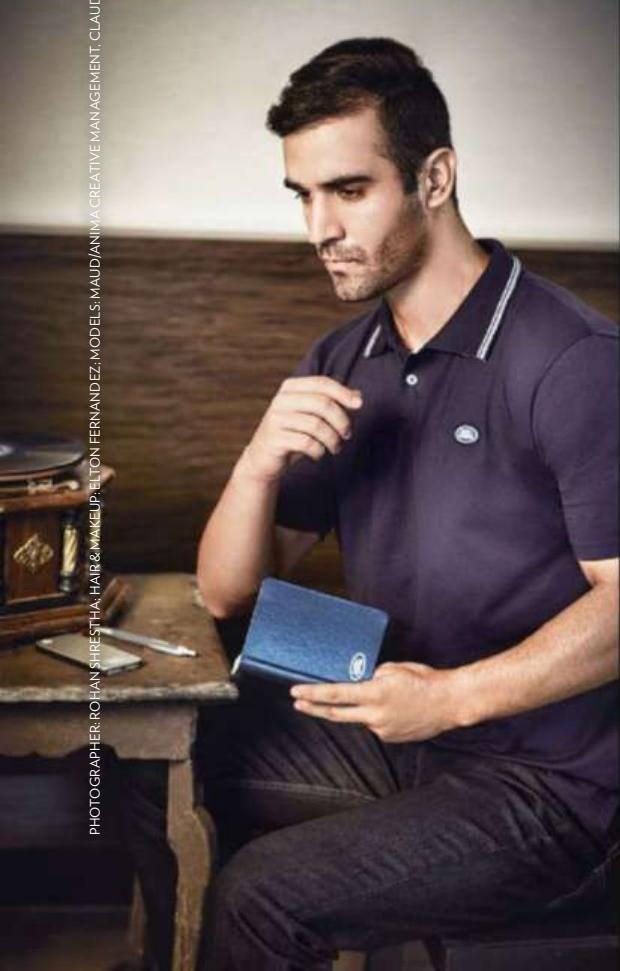
Scandinavian sort of way. It's like living in a very yellow Ikea. Within months of launching, the concept hotel saw a clientele ranging from well-heeled corporates to chic creatives looking for a laid-back, non-fussy retreat – and was rated among the top five hotels in Delhi on TripAdvisor, without any marketing efforts. A second property on Jangpura's Link Road was launched soon after. With free high-speed WiFi, mineral water, local calls and a shuttle that will take you "anywhere as long as it's not too far away", all for ₹3,000 a night, word of mouth is all it seems to need.

Opening later this month is its first property in Bengaluru's upmarket 100 Feet Road, which will see the ground floor functioning as a kind of co-working space fitted with Macs and comfy sofas. At night, it will transform into a more energetic, social place to meet, eat and drink. This is flashpacker quality for backpacker prices, meant even for those who prefer suitcases. bloomrooms.com





ON THE ROAD



Wanderlust, there's no escaping it. The good life on the road is what we all want—so take the route less travelled or embark on a new adventure. Although, luxury and adventure need not be mutually exclusive. In fact, they go hand in hand. Luxury rides are not just for the city and patrons of Land Rover know this to be true. Synonymous with a sense of adventure, the name speaks for itself. Up the ante and wear this spirit on your sleeve now—quite literally. The Land Rover Collection 2015 embodies the off-road temperament with a core range of T-shirts, caps, scarves, wallets, cufflinks, card holders and small leather goods all channelling this sentiment through design. Take the road less travelled, seek a new escapade and own a piece of adventure while simultaneously looking suave and driving the year's meanest ride.

Information on the Land Rover Collection is available on landrover.in





GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

designo

BY



Mercedes-Benz



Dildeep Kalra, Kavneet Sahni, Manish Mehrotra & Zoravar Kalra



Che Kurrien & Manish Arora



Veer Singh



Vir Sanghvi

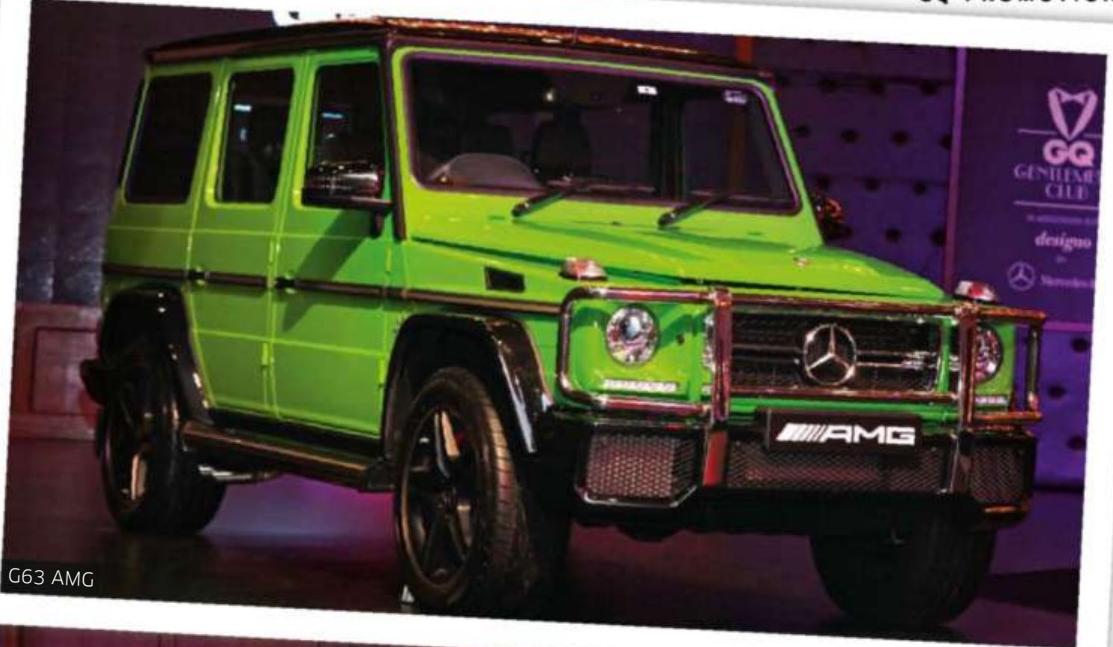
Guests at a recent GQ Gentlemen's Club event were privy to the launch of a new customization service by Mercedes-Benz. This service, called 'designo', allows buyers to play with interior and exterior detailing, right from the stitching and fitments to paint finishes and trims, and was unveiled in front of New Delhi's big car fans. The Gentlemen's Club event also saw the superstars of the design fraternity—including artist Subodh Gupta, space designer Ayaz Basrai, designer Manish Arora, media icon Vir Sanghvi and Veer Singh, founder of the award-winning Vana Retreats—form a panel to discuss what luxury meant to them and how bespoke details added value to life.



Eberhard Kern



S63 AMG Coupé







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Fresh
Mehra



The decor at the venue



Shantanu & Nikhil Mehra



Rochelle Pinto & Shweta Kapur





The Panelists



Sanjay Kapoor



Saagar Mehra & Kapil Kapoor



Ayaz Basrai & Svetlana Dhir



Divyam Mehta



Nilofer Currimbhoy



Tabrik Currimbhoy



Raghav Chanana



Binoy Somaia



Samrat Som

Suman Jayakrishnan & J J Vallaya



MIDSUMMER

High

We travelled from Mumbai to Stockholm to find the truth behind Sweden's hottest export

The Swedes might just have it all figured out. On any given day, a Swedish man – call him Ludvig – might be lounging on his couch in the afternoon, in his mostly glass home, under a lamp shaped like an artichoke. It's July and his office is closed for a three-week vacation and he is squeezing out caviar from a tube onto boiled eggs. His blonde and tall wife, Ida, is wearing boots, she's just back from a hike. They have two toddlers (they get a combined 16 months of maternity and paternity leave for every child), and when the younger kid ran a fever yesterday he needed to be whisked from school to the doctor (both mostly paid for by the state).

It's Thursday and the couple are meeting friends for dinner. At 8pm they

enter an elegant restaurant lined with graffiti, dressed in Gant Rugger and Acne, and order rounds of cocktails with ingredients like aperol and asparagus slow-baked with vermouth. After polishing off plates of meticulously arranged oysters and smoked mackerel salad, they head to a bar, attached to a gentlemen's barbershop. And then a club. And then another one. The crowd dances unreservedly, the music alternating from indie pop to melodic death metal.

It's 3am, there's still some daylight, the clubs are heaving, and the many no-fuss, single girls are all DTF. But Ludvig fancies himself a swim in the sea with Ida. They peel off their clothes and jump in. The water is as pure as the vodka they drank. It's a Wes Anderson-esque night with a strange but near-perfect quality. →



FLÂNEUR FOREVER



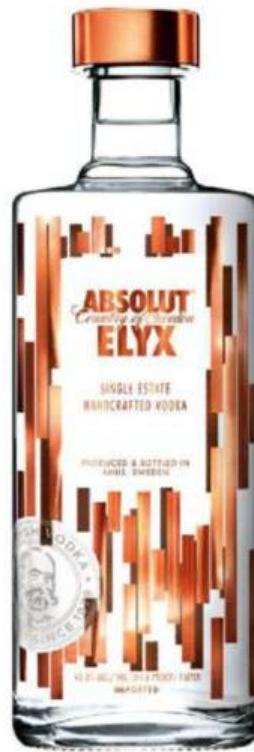
THE BOTTLES ARE CLEANED WITH VODKA BEFORE BEING FILLED WITH VODKA, AND ONLY TEN PEOPLE IN THE WORLD KNOW HOW TO MAKE ITS CONTENTS

Near dusk on a summer evening in Ahus, I stood outside an elegant farmhouse and considered a large field of wheat. These were no ordinary grains. They were a tall, delicate crop, grown and harvested in this small beach town and used to make vodka for one of the world's largest vodka brands. Every Absolut bottle is made from one source: this single village in southern Sweden. The water comes from a single well – considered some of the purest aqua in the world – and the vodka is made, bottled and stored for export, all within an area of less than 10 square kilometres. Absolut Elyx, the company's new premium offering, goes a step further: The wheat comes from a single estate – the one stretched in front of me – tended to by a single farmer, and the spirit is distilled in a 1921 copper still, where operations are conducted by hand. A near-perfect vodka, Absolut believes. A tasting was in order.

Saying that vodka's taste derives from its ingredients is considered ridiculous by some, since most consumers use vodka as a flavourless mixer with something else like tonic or orange juice. Many high-end bartenders still disdain the drink as the white bread of the spirit world: devoid of character, unchallenging and safe. It brings nothing to a glass they desperately want to fill with flavour.

Still, there's no denying the superiority of this clear spirit crackling

An elegant, delicious (and near-perfect) dish from Stockholm hotspot Nosh And Chow



A silky smooth vodka, this one doesn't need to be drowned in mixers. Have it on the rocks, with a lemon or orange twist. At a bar, order a classic cocktail like a martini. At home, mix 3 parts of Elyx with $\frac{1}{4}$ part dry vermouth and serve in a cocktail glass with a star anise. It makes for a delicious tipple

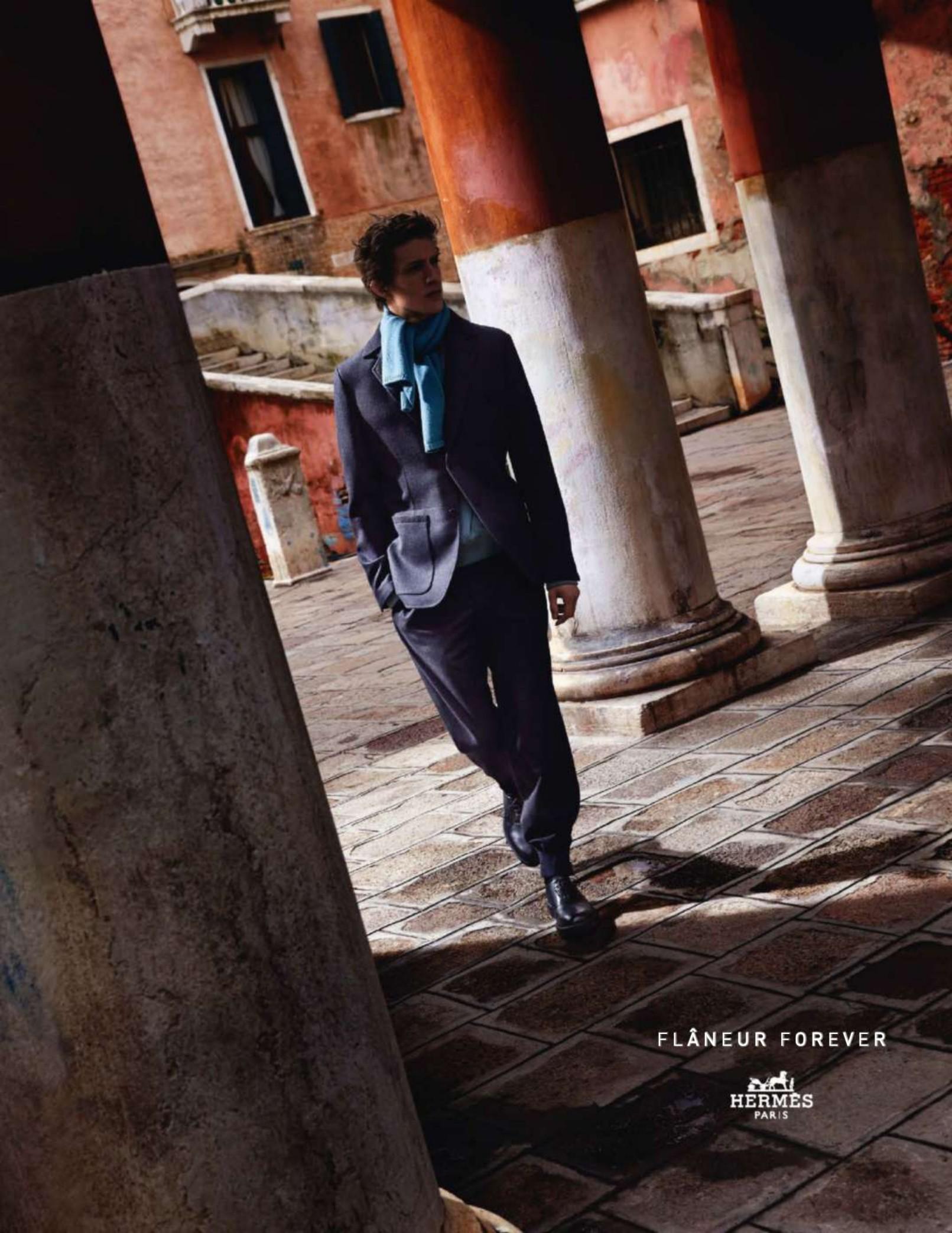
Available at premium liquor stores in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi



on ice in a heavy set tumbler in my hand. Sitting inside a handsome hunting lodge, I sipped Elyx on the rocks with an orange twist. It's creamier, smoother, less harsh than any vodka I have had neat.

But does it warrant such bizarre and exact standards of obsession? Most vodka brands will produce the spirit from different raw materials, depending on the country and the market – sugar beets in Brazil, potatoes in parts of Asia. Absolut – the most internationally distributed brand – has a single factory, uses the same variety of wheat, which is driven to a single warehouse, from where bottles are shipped to the rest of the world. The bottles are cleaned with vodka before being filled with vodka, ones that have the slightest air bubble are discarded. In the case of Elyx, only ten people in the world know how to make it. It's kind of mental. It's the way things are done in Sweden, it's just part of the Nordic model of life. It's how they made Spotify or Skype or the pacemaker or modern GPS. Or why it's the land of ABBA and IKEA.

As lovely as the countryside setting in front of me is, the place where Absolut makes the most sense is in a bar. Which is why New York has embraced the apothecary-style bottles more than any other city in the world. In the late Seventies, when Manhattan was at its pinnacle of creative nightlife, spots like Studio 54 and Palladium were turning partying into an art →

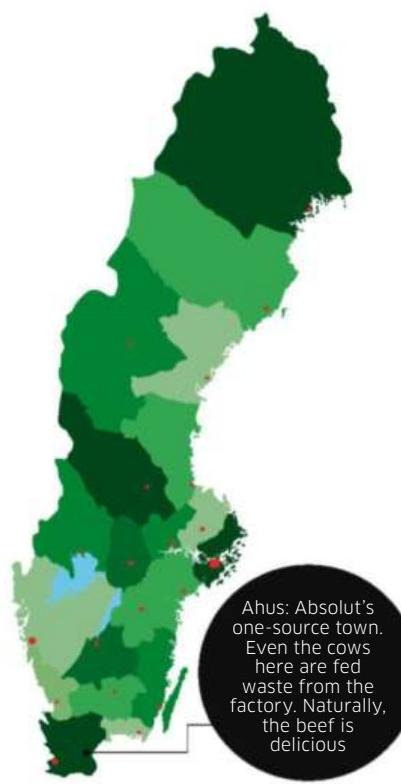


FLÂNEUR FOREVER

HERMÈS
PARIS



SPOTS LIKE STUDIO 54 AND PALLADIUM WERE TURNING PARTYING INTO AN ART FORM AND THIS SLIGHTLY WEIRD, EDGY SWEDISH VODKA BECAME A FAVOURITE WITH BARTENDERS WHO BEGAN TO INVENT MANY OF TODAY'S CLASSIC COCKTAILS - INCLUDING THE MODERN COSMOPOLITAN



Ahus: Absolut's one-source town. Even the cows here are fed waste from the factory. Naturally, the beef is delicious

form, and this slightly weird, edgy Swedish vodka became a favourite with bartenders, who began to invent many of today's classic cocktails - including the modern Cosmopolitan. Absolut threw parties in mansions, had advertisements featuring drag queens and launched many campaigns in support of the LGBT community.

The brand collaborated with artists like Andy Warhol, Jean Paul Gaultier and Helmut Newton, creating everything from limited-edition bottles to pop art. Its fans were

cultish - Warhol took the bottle to parties as a fashion accessory and wore the contents of the bottle like cologne.

Absolut was created for parties. Which is why 500km away from the wheat field, later that night in a Stockholm club, sipping a martini, swaying with a dizzying crowd to a track by Icona Pop, all the obsession made more sense. And near dawn, as I jumped into the sea along with Ludvig and Ida, it felt good, for a night, to be a part of the near-perfect people from a near-perfect land. ☺





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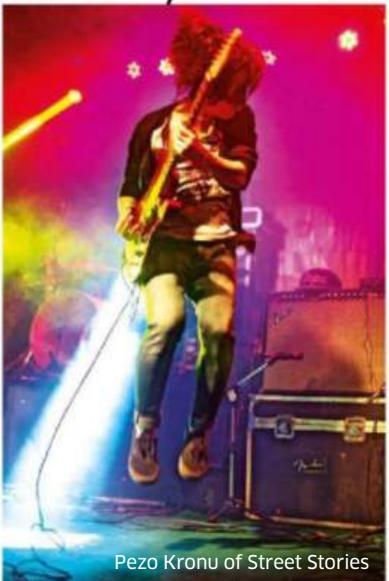
 **SWISS**

insider

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS MONTH



Effect



Pezo Kronu of Street Stories

Anup Kutty, co-founder of the **Ziro Festival of Music**, invites you to take the trip of a lifetime up to the Northeast. There will be rice beer, great music and stories waiting. Just make sure to pack your gumboots

PHOTO: SHIVAH AHUJA

In 2011, it rained non-stop for three days, and landslides blocked the bumpy mountain road to Ziro, a remote valley town in Arunachal Pradesh. Some of the artists, on their first trip to the Northeast, were stuck on the blocked road for over 18 hours, with no access to a mobile network, waiting for roadrollers to clear the way. At the venue, we huddled around a table and wondered if this really was a good idea. But it was too late to call off the first edition of our music festival.

I remember the first cab that rolled into the lodge. I could see Samrat (Bharadwaj, of the electronic act Teddy Boy Kill), his head sticking out of the window, furiously shaking his fist in the air. "Where have you brought us?" he was yelling. And yet, a couple hours later, I saw him drinking rice beer with the locals. He had found his space.

Every September, for the past three years, a motley mix of music lovers have come together with the Apatani tribesmen of Ziro to produce an extended weekend that showcases the best of independent music in India. To be part of this, a couple thousand people make the long, arduous journey – on flights, trains, buses and steamers – across a bloated Brahmaputra. →

DIBRUGARH

Just being on the road throws up stories, especially for the bands. Like when Lee Ranaldo (ex-Sonic Youth) yelled at a journalist for smoking in his band van on their way up to Ziro in 2013. "If it's a joint, it's fine; but I can't stand tobacco," he'd said. It had made newspaper headlines. An hour into the harrowing drive from Guwahati, Lee stopped the car, stepped out and announced, "I am not going any further. Where I come from, this is not how we drive." Later, he was singing Dylan and playing carrom with Assamese workers.

As you read this, we are pulling our hair out prepping for this year's festival: Animal sacrifices are being made by Apatani shamans to appease the weather gods, and a lot of people are drinking a lot of rice beer and struggling to put the bamboo stage together.

When some of my friends say it's too far for them to make it, I want to tell them the story of Anish and Shalu, blind boys from Kerala who travelled by train and bus to set up a reflexology kiosk at the festival last year. For me, their presence was the highlight – two blind masseurs braving all odds, setting up a stall in a faraway festival, kneading tired feet while listening to bands belt it out. I met Anish much later in a hot and humid Kochi. He told me that Ziro was the journey of his life.

He'd nailed it. ☺

Ziro Festival of Music is on from September 24-27

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Aamby Valley City, December 18-20

SUNBURN, GOA, December 27-30



The Ska Vengers



Uday Benegal



Tetseo Sisters



HOW TO GET TO ZIRO VALLEY

Reach Guwahati by flight (all major airlines fly out from metros, takes 3-5 hours) or train (averaging two days). Rent easily available cabs for the 14-hour drive to Ziro

OR Fly to Dibrugarh (no non-stops and takes roughly 6 hours, but all major airlines ply this route too). Rent a cab for the 8-hour drive to Ziro



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LAWS OF STYLE

Suit up, throw on a baller jacket, layer up in the snazziest covers and make that shirt flirt in microprints (it's the next BIG thing). Van Heusen lays down the style commandments of the moment (disobey at your peril)

While the badass GQ man is known to break the rules, when it comes to these style commandments, even he follows them to the T. This guide is geared to show you how to play it right and wear it cool with Van Heusen's hottest selects this autumn/winter, accompanied with the tips to make sure you make a bold statement. From the rage of teeny tiny prints and patterns to subtle splashes of colour, playful juxtapositions of shapes, and everything you need (and need to know) to give your wardrobe a complete overhaul this winter.

1

LAYER LIKE
A PLAYER

Thou shalt not go overboard – three good layers and you're good son.

We love this pile up: a slim-fit sky blue shirt and navy tie (neatly tucked in) under a sunny-bright cardigan worn under a longer-than-usual jacket in the same blue as the tie. All this over a pair of dark tan trousers.

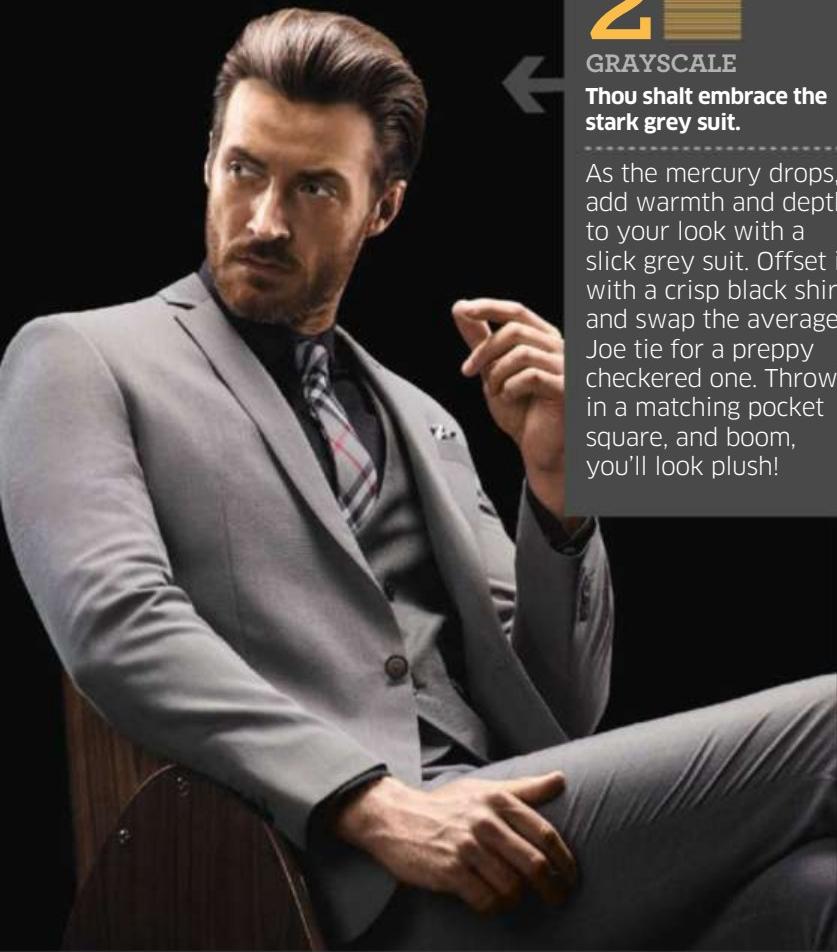


2

GRAYSCALE

Thou shalt embrace the stark grey suit.

As the mercury drops, add warmth and depth to your look with a slick grey suit. Offset it with a crisp black shirt and swap the average Joe tie for a preppy checkered one. Throw in a matching pocket square, and boom, you'll look plush!



3

CONDIMENTS ASIDE

Thou shalt covet mustard pants.

No matter what you call it – mustard, ochre – a shade of yellow is what you need to spice up your fall look. Here it's paired with an uber-cool two-toned shirt. The top half celebrates the microprint in all its glory. Carry the look with accessories like a cool belt, sunnies and a bag.



5

THE MICRO WAVE

Thou shalt micro manage your sartorial mantra.

Give your look a subtle lift with microprints. Get cheeky with these tiny dot and check patterns on your shirt. Pair your printed items with classic wardrobe staples like this brown bomber jacket and solid navy trousers. Not only will you avoid creating a patterned mess, but you will also allow your statement piece to take centre stage.



4

CALL ME GREY

Thou shalt say it over and over and over again: grey, grey, grey.

The grey suit is back – still handsome, still business-appropriate – and in such a way that'll win you a nod from Don Draper himself. Don't be shy to go grey-on-grey-on-grey: this stark-simple suit paired with a grey shirt and grey trousers and a smart striped tie will add an almighty touch of suave to your style.



6

A NEW BREED
OF TWEED**Thou shalt take to tweed.**

Unlike those prickly, boxy versions, these tweeds are cut for 2015. Plus, they're sturdy without feeling like Kevlar. And if they're in a pattern like this solid pick, who knows what might come next. Pair it with a dapper tie with a pop of colour, and that's what we call styled like a boss.



7

OPPOSITES
ATTRACT**Thou shalt not be afraid to fool around with patterns, colours, prints, textures - mix it up!**

Contrasts always lend a little bit of cool-ness. So go strong, or go home. We suggest a thick ochre jacket coupled with a mini gingham sky blue shirt. Throw in a tie with different angled stripes and boom you've nailed that art of mish mash, in a great way.



8

PLAY THE BLUES, BROTHER

Thou shalt make the blue suit caj and cool.

Traditionally, it's the most conservative suiting colour - but not when you're riffing on it like this. Denim, micro-prints et al - this look is all about piling on the blues, from your jacket to your shirt, your belt, socks and everything in between.

W

VAN HEUSEN
POWER DRESSING

FILM

The seventh *Pirates* sequel is still a couple years away, but neither Johnny Depp nor his make-up artist Joel Harlow seems to want to take a break. In Scott Cooper's *Black Mass*, Harlow transforms Depp into Whitey Bulger, the notorious Boston-based crime boss-turned-FBI informant from the Seventies. There's a chilling likeness – and all Harlow uses are a pair of blue contact lenses, some hair dye and gel and teeth stain.

That isn't nearly as much greasepaint as Depp's used to – and his return to a normal skin tone makes us hope he's also ready to get back to serious acting instead of playing out his mid-life crisis onscreen. Maybe having to work alongside Benedict "I won Hollywood with my accent" Cumberbatch also has something to do with it?

While we wait to be suitably terrified by his rendition of "the most wanted gangster in American history", we look back at all the times, in ascending order of chalkiness, that Depp got lazy and let his getup do the talking (is it a coincidence that Tim Burton's involved in most?). It's about time Depp did something on an awards stage besides get drunk. Especially considering even Harlow's got an Oscar – which is one more than Depp has, in case you're counting.

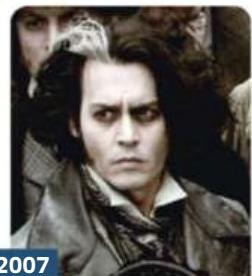


2015



2005

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
Director: Tim Burton
In which Depp looks like the candy that comes out of Willy Wonka's factory.



2007

SWEENEY TODD
Director: Tim Burton
In which a bad haircut with a shock of grey (oddly reminiscent of a certain ex-PM) is the scariest thing about this demon barber.



2010

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
Director: Tim Burton
Lewis Carroll's Hatter wasn't actually mad, but Burton's sure is. No other reason to look like a cake threw up on you.



2012

DARK SHADOWS
Director: Tim Burton
Depp tries to convince us he's a vampire back from the grave with long nails and greasy hair. Not to mention: Most Chalk Ever.



2013

THE LONE RANGER
Director: Gore Verbinski
In which Depp plays a Native American. To wit, there's a dead, stuffed crow on his head.

MUSIC

Caracal

By Disclosure

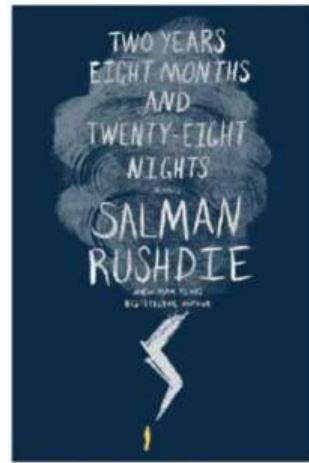
The Lawrence boys – brothers Howard and Guy – have, in three years, gone from being just another pair of music grads fooling around on a console to being Britain's most talked-up electronic act. Their debut album (*Settle*) went platinum, they've won multiple awards, collaborated with everyone from Sam Smith to Mary J Blige, started their own music festival

(*Wildlife*) and, this month, they're back on the prowl with a new album they're hoping someone will leak online. Because nothing spells "arrived" these days like a display of impatience from your gushing audience. #thestateofthings



88 – **SEPT**ember 2015

BOOK



Two Years Eight Months And Twenty-Eight Nights

By Salman Rushdie

British author Salman Rushdie, who has over a million followers on Twitter, thinks "a tweet is like clearing your throat to speak and then having no time to say anything". Figures. His last book, the memoir *Joseph Anton*, rambled for over 600 pages. But it does look like he's warming to the art of brevity. His latest, blending "history, mythology

and a timeless love story to bring alive a world that has been plunged into an age of unreason", is barely a sneeze by his usual standard at 250 pages. "Seems like I've finally learned to shut up," Rushdie quipped in an interview earlier this year. Which would be great news for the offence-takers of the world; except, it just sounds like he's practising pick-up lines.

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Wandering Stars

Meet Bengaluru-based couple **Rahul Giri** and **Tanvi Rao**, who've created a crossover, ambient sound they like to call 'mellow-dramatic pop'



THE BAND

Rao: "Rahul and I met in university in Bangalore. We jammed at a mutual friend's place and liked what we heard."

Giri: "I was asked to open for German act Mouse on Mars when they toured India in 2010. I got Tanvi and Kamal Singh [of Lounge Piranha and Hoirong] on board. And that was our first official show."

THE NAME

Rao: "Sulk Station used to be Rahul's nickname for me." #More apt than The Bobbleheads – which is what they called themselves at that first performance.

BEST KNOWN FOR

Their 2012 album *Till You Appear*, featuring ten songs of the deeply meditative, shoe-gazing variety.

THE SOUND

Downtempo electronica, blending trip hop, jazz and Hindustani classical vocals.

Giri: "It's melancholic, restrained, intense, tender..."

Rao: "... And moody, stark, dark, layered and heavy."

INFLUENCES AND INSPIRATIONS

Rao: "Everyone from James Blake to Martina Topley Bird, Nina Simone to Susheela Raman, Portishead to Radiohead."

Giri: "Radiohead's 2001 album *Amnesiac* changed everything for me. I discovered electronic music – I learned about drum machines, sampling, synthesizers and

discovered Fruityloops [an electronic instrument]."

MUSICAL EDUCATION

Rao has a diploma in vocals from the KM Music Conservatory, Chennai.

"I'm currently learning to play the piano and also training in Hindustani vocals."

Giri: "Maybe bits and pieces off YouTube, that's about it."

BEST GIG

Giri: "Earlier this year, we played in a dingy basement to a superb audience at the Great Escape Festival in Brighton, England."

AND WORST

Giri: "When we opened for Dualist Inquiry at Bacchus, a Bangalore club that isn't around anymore. The crowd just wanted Bakshi. I think I walked off the stage quite early."

Rao: "I've been asked to sing everything from songs by Madonna to 'Happy Birthday'. We've built up the patience and humour to deal with all that too." #giglife

BIGGEST COMPLIMENT

Giri: "British musician Brian Eno stopped by to chat with us while we were rehearsing at Southbank Centre on our recent UK tour. I was so nervous, I don't remember anything he said!"

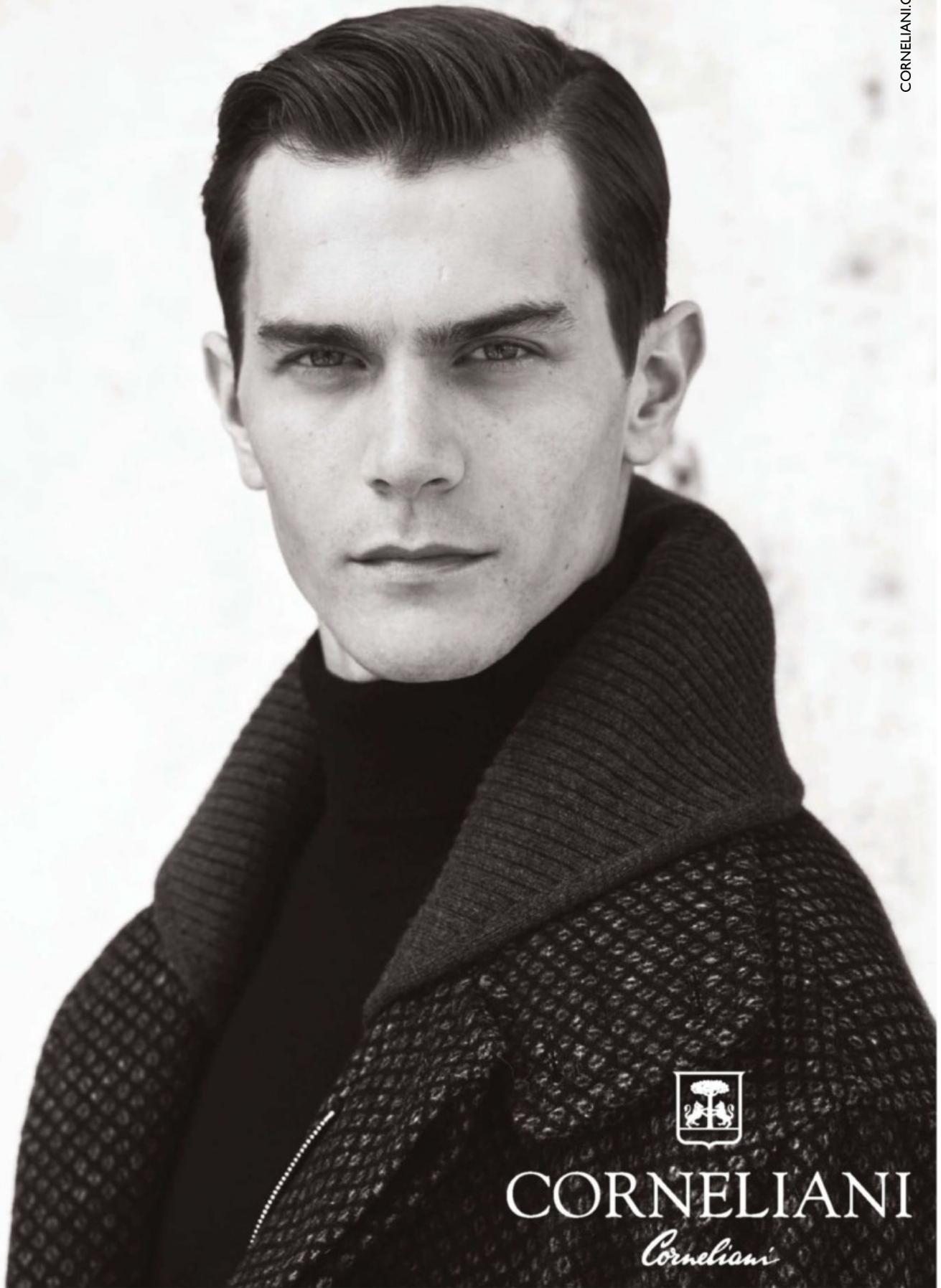
Rao: "Eno said we have a very intriguing sound and that he was looking forward to our new album. And AR Rahman told us he thought our music was unique."

FUN FACTS

Giri wanted to be a cricketer growing up, also has a solo moniker (_RHL) and runs a blog/ collective called Consolidate, whose focus is to push new electronic music coming out of Bengaluru. Rao is a school music teacher and likes to watch YouTube tutorials on baking and kitchen organization when she's stressed.

WHAT'S NEXT

A new album this year, a new EP from _RHL, maybe a bigger band, and a record label. ☺



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STYLE FILES

Whether you're dressing for business or leisure, stay on-trend with Park Avenue's contemporary Autumn/Winter 2015 collection that's ideal for every occasion



Modern and sophisticated, up your dapper quotient with this smartly detailed, three-piece suit. Mix and match patterns with a striped shirt and a bright tie. Add a lapel pin to complete your look.



Play with textures and layers – wear a leather jacket and a pullover over a shirt from Park Avenue's Autumn/Winter 2015 collection. Team with casual trousers for a relaxed yet fashionable ensemble.

Be the cynosure of all eyes this festive season with an intricately patterned dress by Park Avenue. Make a bold statement by throwing on a bright knee-length jacket for a chic look.

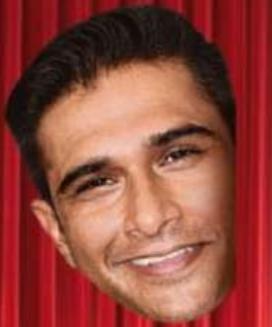




Inspired by winter shades, wear a blue jacket and a pullover over a stark white shirt from Park Avenue's Autumn/Winter 2015 collection. Throw on a pair of jeans and accessorize with leather shoes for a contemporary appeal.

THE EAST INDIES

Noticed how it's become harder to ignore that alternative film at the multiplex? Blame it on the 'vision of a new generation of film-makers', as Cannes Film Festival director Thierry Frémaux described this breed of rising stars earlier this year. Here, we doff our hats to five members who are going out of their way to earn their laurels – and your attention



THE MULTI-TASKER VIVEK GOMBER

A year ago, the Venice Film Festival surprised the world by awarding a small Marathi-English-Hindi film top honours. *Court*, directed by Chaitanya Tamhane, has won 28 (and counting) awards at festivals around the globe, including a National Award here at home. But it wouldn't exist if it weren't for Vivek Gomber's conviction in Tamhane's talent. Not only did he play the lead – as conscientious lawyer Vinay Vora – he also produced *Court* and set up a company to release the film around the world. Gomber probably wasn't expecting to still be taking the film to festivals from Tokyo to Melbourne. But who's complaining, when there could be an Oscar down the road?



THE ACTOR (MALE) NEERAJ KABI

Remember the emaciated MBA dude-turned-monk from Anand Gandhi's *Ship Of Theseus*? Or the buff doctor/freedom fighter/smuggler from Dibakar Banerjee's *Detective Byomkesh Bakshy!*? That's Neeraj Kabi, living and breathing his characters like they're alternate personalities. The 47-year-old theatre actor has a slew of films in his kitty that you've probably never heard of, such as Amit Kumar's *Monsoon Shootout* with Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Kranti Kanade's *Gandhi Of The Month* and Meghna Gulzar's *Talvar* (about the Aarushi murder case). Makes you wonder what took him so long to get off the stage and on to the big screen.



THE ACTOR (FEMALE) RICA CHADDA

You already know Richa Chadda, that Delhi lass with a soft spot for "bold" roles that allow her the freedom to be as foul-mouthed as she wants – remember *Gangs Of Wasseypur* and *Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!*? This year, she walked the red carpet at Cannes, not as part of any beauty brand's galaxy of endorsers but with the celebrated cast of *Masaan*, the award-winning film by Neeraj Ghaywan and Varun Grover. Next up for Chadda is a film with Kalki Koechlin called *Jia Aur Jia*, another by Sudhir Mishra called *Aur Devdas*, yet another with Nawazuddin Siddiqui called *Ghoomketu*... And that's just the tip of the iceberg.



THE DIRECTOR RITESH BATRA

Ritesh Batra became Indian indie cinema's posterboy with 2013's *The Lunchbox* – that poignant romance about a case of mixed dabbas. The powers-that-be wouldn't let it run for the Oscars, but Batra did win a BAFTA award, top accolades at Cannes and, crucially, Karan Johar's attention – which tremendously eased its passage into theatres here. Now, Batra's a household name. When he isn't working on his next feature, *The Photograph*, or meandering about London adapting Julian Barnes' novel *The Sense Of An Ending* to the big screen, he's on a mission to revive chatter about "good" Indian cinema, and save those nearly extinct Parsi cafés in Mumbai in the process.



THE PRODUCER MANISH MUNDRA

How does the CEO of a petrochemical company in Nigeria suddenly become the biggest benefactor of independent cinema in India? Via Twitter, of course. Since responding to Rajat Kapoor's 140-character plea for funding for his 2013 award-winning film *Aankhon Dekhi*, Manish Mundra's gone turbo. He's produced Nagesh Kukunoor's *Dhanak*, Neeraj Ghaywan's *Masaan* and Prashant Nair's *Umrika* in the past two years (don't pretend you haven't at least heard of them); tied up with Sundance Film Festival to organize its annual screenwriters' lab for 2015; and launched his own production house, Drishyam Films. Talk about fuelling a movement.

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MAN OF STEELE

At 62, the eternally suave **Pierce Brosnan** has done things other actors could only dream about. Like playing Bond, saying "no thanks" to Batman, and laying off the Botox

The poster for your latest action-thriller, *No Escape*, features a familiar image of you, pistol in hand. Are you a gun owner?

I have never owned a weapon, but somebody gave me one recently. He said I should have one. But it feels ugly. I really don't like to have it in the house. It's just a regular handgun, but it's powerful. It'll split you in two. I've put it aside and shall give it back.

Your Malibu home nearly burned down last February. What did you lose in the fire?

I had just done a week of meditation classes, so I was in this Zen zone of reflection when the shit hit the proverbial fan. There were paintings, first-edition books – James Joyce's *Ulysses* – the Aston Martin. I looked into the garage, and the car cover was engulfed in flames. In that nanosecond, you think, do I try to save it? But it's a car. You take the blow and move on, give thanks you're alive.

Has striking a work-life balance ever been difficult for you?

There was a time after I lost my [first] wife, Cassie [to ovarian cancer], when it was extremely difficult. Everything was rattling in the realm of grief, and I was trying to find myself again and had to go to work and take my son on the road with me. It's not good terrain for any young person. But I had the good fortune of meeting a great woman in Keely. We've been together 21 years. We've created a new life and family.

Your 18-year-old son, Dylan, is now a model. Is the family ready for another sex symbol?

Do what makes you happy is how I see it – it will bring dividends. Dylan was discovered in Malibu by Hedi Slimane for Yves Saint Laurent while having a cup of coffee. The dude came by, took a photograph and gave Dylan his card. He promptly lost it. The office called a couple weeks later, saying, "We've been waiting to hear from you."

Good genes. You were a tall kid, weren't you?

I was six feet tall at 11. I remember noticing that a lot of actors who were extremely powerful were a certain height, and I used to wish that I were maybe just half a foot shorter, so that I'd be more talented. More intensity to my mass, as it were. Foolish thinking as a very young actor.

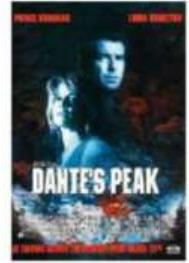
Your path to fame was pretty breezy. Is it true Remington Steele was your first audition?

Yes, it was. [Laughs] I didn't struggle. The luck of the Irish.

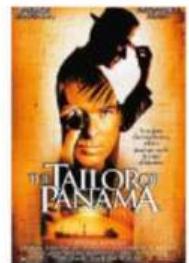
BEYOND BOND



• **THE LAWNMOWER MAN** (1992)
Directed by Brett Leonard



• **DANTE'S PEAK** (1997)
Directed by Roger Donaldson



• **THE TAILOR OF PANAMA** (2001)
Directed by John Boorman



• **SERAPHIM FALLS** (2006)
Directed by David Von Ancken

And you turned down Batman.

It was the beginning of these huge movies, and I just thought, Batman? Batman held such an indelible place in my own childhood, but I said something flippant to Tim Burton like, "Any guy who wears his underpants outside his trousers cannot be taken seriously." So, yeah.

Anyone you'd still love to work with?

I've always admired Robert De Niro. I met him briefly decades ago at a *Night Of 100 Stars*. I went up to commit my greatest admiration, and he was talking to some punk chick. He said, "Meet Sally," and walked away. So I was stuck with some girl called Sally, who I had no interest in whatsoever.

You grew up outside of Dublin. Did you see legalized gay marriage coming?

I never thought in a million years, but hallelujah! Enough of the shaming. It's a great indication of the forward-thinking of a nation that's been so mangled by religion.

Can you picture a gay 007?

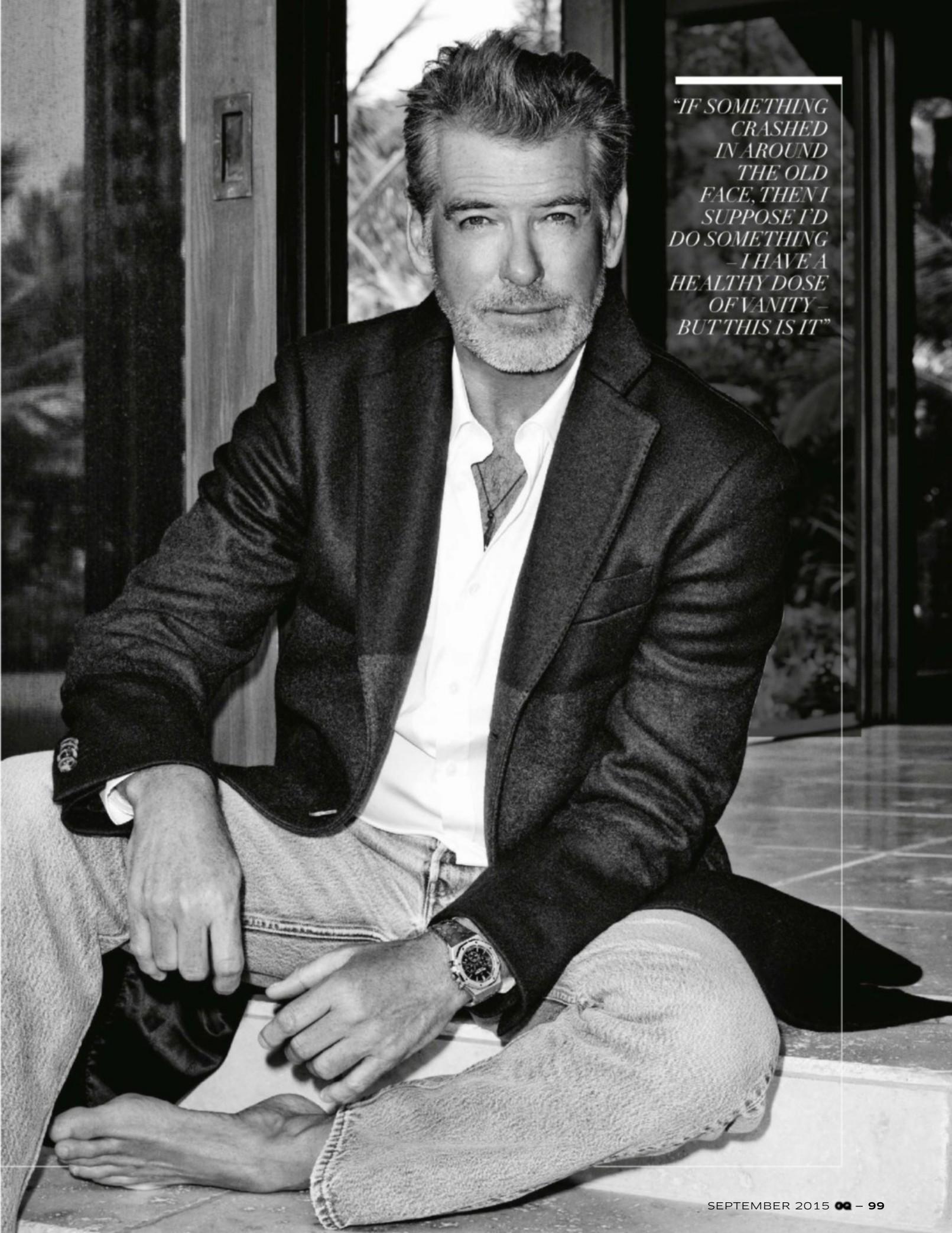
Sure, why not? [Pauses thoughtfully.] Actually, I don't know how it would work. I don't think Barbara [Broccoli, the James Bond producer] would allow a gay Bond to happen in her lifetime. But it would certainly make for interesting viewing. Let's start with a great black actor being James Bond. Idris Elba certainly has the physicality, the charisma, the presence. But I think Daniel [Craig] will be there for a while yet.

Is it funny at 62 years old to see paparazzi shots of yourself on a beach in Hawaii with—

With my Irish gut? [Laughs] We ran away to the wee island 15 years ago, and it was so delightful. The intrusion now is shocking, but what are you going to do? The lads in the hood know they can make a buck or two if they take a picture of Brosnan with his belly hanging out, looking like an old fart staggering out of the ocean.

You're aging well. Would you ever consider Botox or other cosmetic procedures?

Good heavens, no. It's a disgusting thing in our society, what we do to ourselves. We should just enjoy as best as we can and make peace. If something crashed in around the old face, then I suppose I'd do something – I have a healthy dose of vanity – but this is it. Long may it last. ☺



*"IF SOMETHING
CRASHED IN AROUND
THE OLD
FACE, THEN I
SUPPOSE I'D
DO SOMETHING
—I HAVE A
HEALTHY DOSE
OF VANITY—
BUT THIS IS IT"*

IT'S ALL IN THE BEANS

Dirt, pollution and dust leave your face looking dull and lifeless. #getRecharged with the Pollution Out Face Wash by Pond's Men and re-energize your look

It is no secret that some of the most polluted cities in the world are in India. Whether it's travelling for work, playing cricket and football, or meeting up with friends, there is no escaping the grime that surrounds us. Not only does the dirt and dust particles stick to the surface skin, but they also go deep inside the layers of your face, causing your skin to look dark and drab. This, coupled with stress and an unhealthy lifestyle, can tarnish your skin's vitality.

With a promise to #getPollutionOut, Pond's Men presents its latest weapon against pollution to re-energize your skin. Made of three core ingredients - brightening foam, coffee bean extract and activated carbon - the Pollution Out Face Wash helps to revamp your face.

The Pond's Men Pollution Out Face Wash removes micro particles from deep inside and thoroughly cleans skin, leaving it bright and energized. The activated carbon acts like a magnet and sucks out the deep-seated pollution particles, dirt and dust, while the coffee bean icy scrub exfoliates dead skin cells and the brightening foam recharges dull skin.

So this month, #getRecharged and groom yourself to perfection with the Pond's Men Pollution Out Face Wash.



POND'S
MEN
#FaceKaCharger

POLLUTION OUT FACE WASH FOR BRIGHT+ENERGIZED SKIN

#getRecharged

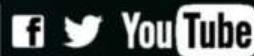
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AN ANTI-POLLUTION BREAKTHROUGH FROM THE POND'S INSTITUTE



Are you the TOILET SEAT PISS monster?

They are hiding among us. They look like you and me, but they leave toilet seats soaked, TP strewn and the can unflushed. They are piss monsters – a scourge of civilization. And they must be eradicated

It's amazing what a man will do behind closed doors – particularly a flimsy bathroom stall door that doesn't quite reach the ceiling or the floor.

That's why, every time I step into a men's room, I brace myself. Against the inevitable stench, of course – but also in anticipation of whatever scatological crime scene I know I'll discover there. Men are downright innovative with the ways they defile the seemingly perfect ergonomic design of the toilet and

the urinal. Can you imagine the whacked-out thought processes of these junior Jackson Pollocks among us? *Ah, yes! I see the urinal there, which is ingeniously positioned and shaped to catch my expulsions! But instead, I think I'll lock myself inside a stall and proceed to drench every visible surface therein.*

I get that this kind of, um, aimless behaviour is tolerated in those places that reduce us to our basic-ape selves: sprawling airport bathrooms, where people are

jet-lagged, rushed and juggling luggage; baseball stadiums, where men are dizzy from guzzling souvenir cups of watery lager in the sun; porta-potties, which are just shit huts baking in the sun. I can sort of understand it, in those unnatural situations.

But what boggles the mind and darkens the heart is the fact that men seem compelled to go inside bathroom stalls and positively explode in wildly inappropriate places. In otherwise-pristine and vetiver-scented restaurant water closets and hotel-lobby stalls. In the cozy johns of quaint movie houses. And even at our own offices. (Including, in case you're wondering, here at *GQ*. I mean, jeez, fellas. Do the letters not stand for *Gentlemen's Quarterly*?)

That said, it's kind of a fun office game to guess which gross bathroom habits belong to which seemingly well-adjusted co-worker. Is the officious man with the military haircut and perfectly arranged desk the one who inexplicably puts a quarter-roll of toilet paper into the urinal, presumably because he likes his pee to enjoy a downy landing? Perhaps it's the junior associate with the coke-bottle glasses, whose aim is so bad that he leaves the *stall walls* dripping. And what sociopath is short-circuiting the electronic flushers, taking perverse pleasure in leaving Incredible Hulk logs sitting unflushed, as if the next man who walks into the stall will behold them and think, "Wow, a real man was just here"?

So, is it you? And if it is, can you please stop? I don't savour taking to these pages like some kind of self-appointed Mommy-in-Chief. And I don't hold a degree in psychology. But it's clear that you're using our shared space to lash out. Maybe because life's steady little humiliations have ground you down and this is your chance to express your anger. Or maybe you're convinced that all your co-workers are nincompoops. But I think you'll find that if you address these unpleasant feelings head on, and stop turning every restroom into a three-by-five-foot multisensory haunted house, you'll not only be doing the right thing ethically – you'll also start feeling better about yourself. More dignified. More impeccable. To paraphrase a mantra from the Boy Scouts, *Leave no trace, yo!*

Not that I expect to persuade these defilers to start doing their civic duty, even if it is in their own self-interest. So fuck 'em. Instead, a proposal: How about the rest of us band together, vigilante-style? Let's form the Dignified Pissers Posse and chase these guys out of the shadows. Next time you see a dude exit a stall that looks like it was inhabited by shit-flinging marsupials, confront him in the office's cubicle maze. Or right there in the restaurant dining room.

Men's bathrooms are scary places because of the piss monsters lurking among us. But if we work together, we no longer have to sit in fear. ☺



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GQ's

**GUIDE TO
THROWING A
REAL-DEAL**

Pager

1

GET FIRED UP

We need to take back the word "party". Because here's what a party isn't: inviting seven friends over for dinner and expecting them to coo as you replicate a Kelvin Cheung tasting menu but then skimp on the wine and serve them Sula. Also not a party: demanding that people dress up in black tie to watch the Oscars while guzzling cocktails with cutesy names like "the Mad Men-hattan". No, a party is loud and overflowing, just on the right side of drunken, and – here's the key part – fun. But before you go blasting out e-vites (ugh) or focus-grouping the right hashtag (hell no), we need to get a few things straight. This won't be a quaint get-together or four-course soirée. If you follow our advice, booze will flow. Strangers will make out. Booties will quake. And everybody in your place will have one hell of a good time – yourself included.



GET THE WORD OUT... LIKE A MAN

No Facebook events. No group texts that will make everyone hate you. Definitely none of those WhatsApp groups, waiting for those ticks to turn blue and nagging people who haven't replied. You are a man, not the social chair of a sorority, and you will send out an e-mail a few weeks in advance.



3

PREP LIKE A PARTY GOD



WORDS: JONATHAN WILDE, SARAH LOCKHART BALL MOORE. ILLUSTRATION: BRIAN MCFADDEN

◎ **MAKE 'EM WALK:**

Set your bar on the opposite side of the room from the front door to get people in, so that they don't create a bottleneck.

◎ **TURN THE LAMPS DOWN LOW:**

If you can't dim the overhead lights, dim a floor lamp and aim it at the ceiling. Then light candles. Everyone looks ten years younger.

◎ **ADIOS, BELOVED ARMCHAIR:**

Stow big chairs with arms – which seat only one – and keep benches, ottomans, coffee tables or even a charpoys for seating.

◎ **ONE CLASSY JOHN:**

Light a candle, put out mints, and buy hotel-quality paper hand towels. People really notice the effort.



ROARING FIRE OR WEIRD PORN? HOW TO SOLVE THE TV CONUNDRUM

*What to put on that
55-inch black hole*
for the party, from
most acceptable to
never, ever*



- GOOD VIBES →
- ➊ Movie, black-and-white
 - ➋ Nineties music videos
 - ➌ *Seinfeld* reruns
 - ➍ Movie, vintage porno
 - ➎ Slideshow of your own baby photos
 - ➏ Roaring-fireplace video loop
 - ➐ Movie, foot-fetish porno
 - ➑ *The Wire*, Season 5
 - ➒ *The Miracle Of Birth*
 - ➓ Local news
 - ➔ Local news, *Times* Now specifically
 - ➎ Any sports event
- BAD IDEA

* Goes without saying, but:
always mute



RULE YOUR PLAYLIST WITH AN IRON FIST

RULE 1

Be a DJ Despot

It's important that the playlist is created by one person with a vision. This is your party. If Rakesh wants to play his favourite Iron Maiden record, he can do it at his own house party.



RULE 2

Think fresh

Take some risks with your playlist. In this single-track-download world that we live in today, people are way more familiar with new stuff than you think.

RULE 3

Make it move

A good playlist is a bell curve. You have the "Everyone's getting here and it's chill" part, you have the "Let's turn it up a notch" portion in the middle and then the "We're going to take this out to the terrace at three in the morning" vibe.

RULE 4

When in doubt, farm it out

If you go to SoundCloud, you can download mixes done by pros for free, ranging from Diplo-type dudes to a classic Kool DJ Red Alert old-school hip-hop mix to four volumes of Nirvana, and shit like that. You can at least grab an hour-long mix or two to get your playlist started.

G GAME ON!

You must lead by example. Be the party. Resist the urge to tidy up. Don't go all Martha Stewart and ask anyone if they need a refill. Do roll a joint and pull a few people onto the roof. Trust that if you mingle, others will mingle; dance and they'll dance; drink and they'll get tore up.



ARROW
USA • 1851

MOD MODE

Think Rolling Stones, The Beatles and Eric Clapton in tailored suits, buttoned-down shirts and jacquard prints. The swag of the Sixties returns with Mod-inspired trends in Arrow's Autumn/Winter 2015-16 Collection.

While **Arrow Sport MOD** showcases retro prints, cut-n-sew designs and colour blocking styles, **Arrow New York** celebrates the Mod culture with fun yet sophisticated prints and monochromes with hints of purple.





ASSESS THE SITUATION

THE SIX PARTY GUESTS YOU'LL NEED TO DEAL WITH



GUY WHO'S WAY TOO
WORRIED ABOUT EBOLA

Have you read that book *The Hot Zone*? He has.



GUY WHO'S WAITING FOR A CALL
FROM HIS BOSS BEFORE HE CAN
REALLY LET LOOSE

"Yes! Shots! Totally!" Just give him one sec.



THOSE TWO

You can tell they care deeply for each
other because they're currently making
a baby on your sofa.



TV-OBSSESSED GUY WHO KEEPS
SAYING "SPOILER ALERT"

He doesn't know if you saw last week's
episode, but - spoiler alert - you'll want
to punch his throat.



GUY WHO ALWAYS GOES THERE
He's not saying what Salman did was right, but...



GUY WHO WAS BORN
WITHOUT A PERSONALITY

"Yeah, so this is Jagdish from work, and he
just moved to the city and... HE'S LOOKING
SOMEWHERE ELSE! RUN!"



8

**KNOW
HOW TO
SHUT IT
DOWN**

Some people don't get the hint. Here's what you do: You take that ice bucket from the cocktail bar and dump it into the sink. Loudly. It's a jarring, unmistakable noise, and the leftovers stumbling around your place should take notice. And if they're still oblivious, announce that the after-party is now starting at your local bar, then walk everyone over – and Irish good-bye the moment they aim their blurry vision at the bartender.



SUIT YOUR SELF

A suit is not just a suit – it's an armour of style. This season, Arrow puts the spotlight on elegant suits, finely crafted jackets and sophisticated tuxedos with its **Travel Suits Collection** and **Arrow Legacy** line. While Arrow's Travel Suits Collection features finely crafted poly-wool travel blazers that are lightweight, wrinkle-free, machine washable and easy to pack, Arrow Legacy comprises a premium range of suits and tuxedos. Designed with Bemberg linings and pad-stitched lapels, they're made from state-of-the-art fabrics like super-fine cotton, Italian wool and silk wool.

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AD
ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

SHOP TALK

A GUIDE TO HOME DESIGN
STORES IN THE COUNTRY



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A comprehensive solution for all your décor needs, *AD Shop Talk* is a catalogue featuring stores, people and services across India, to help you reinvent your space for the upcoming festive season.

Complimentary supplement with the **September 2015 issue** of Architectural Digest.

GQ

WASH

EDITED BY VARUN GODINHO

- Trackside with TAG Heuer at the ultra-glam F1 Monaco GP
- Your basic guide to not sounding like an idiot when talking watches

What it's like living it up on a yacht with Mark Ronson and Fernando Alonso in the world's most expensive real estate market →

MOOD MONACO



The security guards at the Monaco Grand Prix are too polite to be taken seriously. Charged with keeping star-gazers off the main walkway so that racing demi-gods like Jenson Button and Fernando Alonso can preserve their race day zen, they try valiantly to discourage any loitering.

But the gentle "Madame, s'il vous plaît..." isn't much of a deterrent.

Overhead, the crowds leaning over impeccably manicured balconies have started a chorus of celeb-spotting. "Jenson, Jenson", they scream and flail, as the blond driver grins and waves back good-naturedly. "Alonsooo" comes the second Mexican wave of voices, but the moody Spaniard is less obliged to return the fans' enthusiasm. One by one, the drivers march onto the walkway, maintaining enough

distance from each other to avoid photobombing their competitors.

The security guard tries one more time to eject me from my prime spot behind the metal barricade. "Madame..." But the rest of his sentence is defeated by a roar so loud, even the revving engines on the parallel pit lane can't drown it.

A shrunken figure is approaching, his bright red cap doing little to hide the evidence of that horrific, historic crash in 1976. Niki Lauda, the man who cheated death in Nürburgring, doesn't miss a step as autograph hunters swarm him, elevated crowds still chanting his name.

It's the Darwinian code of the celebrity world: You're only as popular as the decibel levels your arrival generates. And in Monaco, Lauda might as well be king. →

GENERATING 135DB OF PURE SOUND, THE SHRIEK OF A RACE CAR IS A HANGOVER'S WORST ENEMY. AND THE FACES IN THE TAG HEUER VIP LOUNGE, A CHERRY-PICKING OF CELEBRITIES, SOCIALITES AND JOURNALISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, BETRAY A SHARED MISERY: LAST NIGHT FEATURED ONE GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE TOO MANY



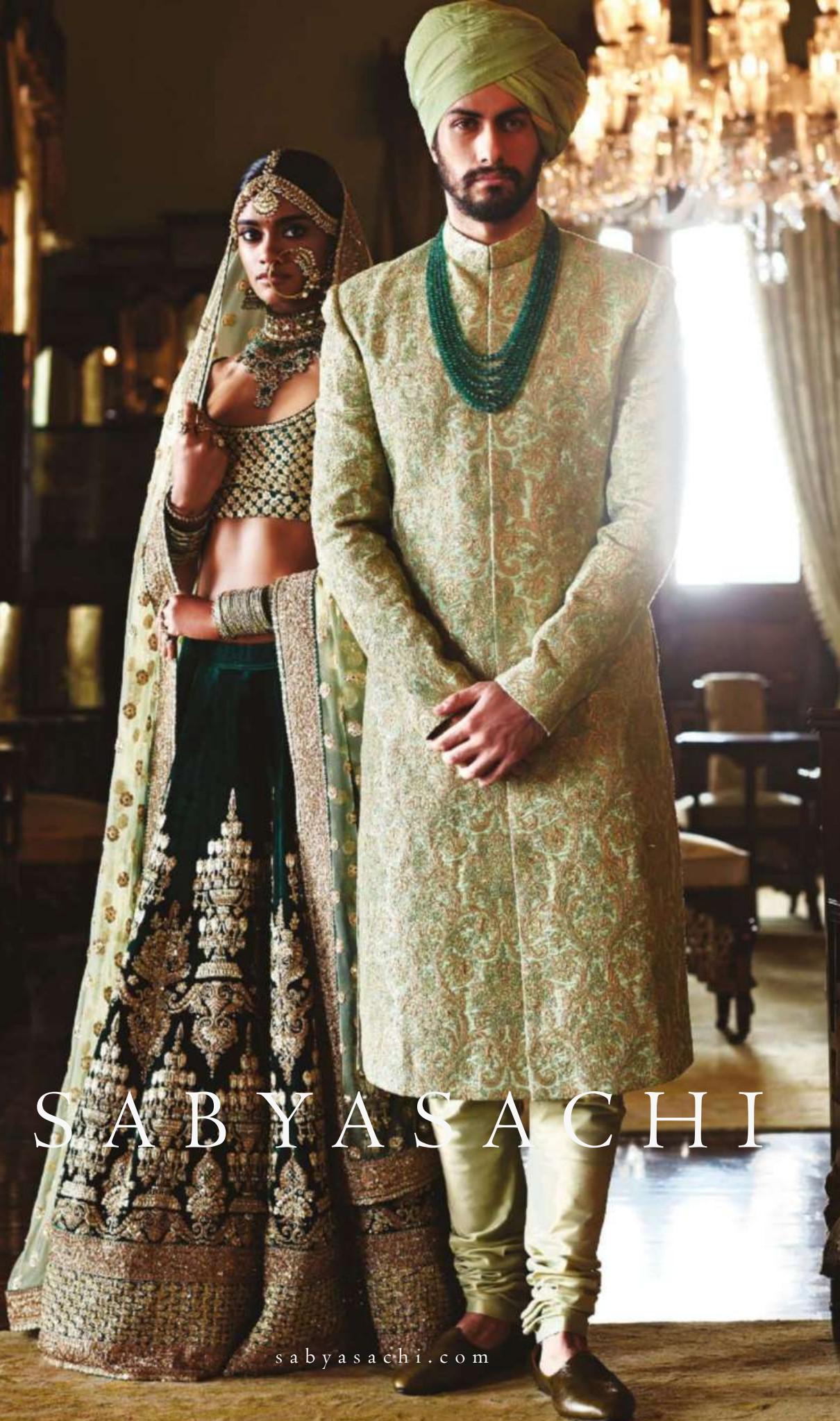
Last call: Spontaneous parties erupt across Monaco



The taste of victory: Nico Rosberg celebrates with his team



Photo frenzy: Kendall Jenner, Hailey Baldwin, Bella Hadid & Gigi Hadid



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MONACO MILLIONAIRES CLUB

Generating 135db of pure sound, the shriek of a race car is a hangover's worst enemy. It cuts through any pretense at sobriety a veteran drinker may attempt to cobble together. And the faces in the TAG Heuer VIP lounge, a cherry-picking of celebrities, high-profile watch dealers and journalists from around the world, betray a shared misery: last night featured one glass of champagne too many.

You can blame it on Mark Ronson. The Grammy-winning producer was on DJ duty at the horological house's bash the previous evening that kicked off a celebration of its 30-year partnership with the McLaren F1 team. Things started out slow, despite the presence of famous rabble-rousers like supermodel and TAG brand ambassador Cara Delevingne. You don't expect millionaires dressed in Dior couture and bespoke Savile Row to teach you how to Dougie. But the minute Ronson unleashed his weapon of mass seduction, the innocently-titled earworm "Uptown Funk", it was every man for himself.

Logic dictates that the easiest remedy for beating a hangover is to stay drunk, which is why it's only noon and everybody is already equipped with a glass of liquid fortification. Thudding pain-in-brain aside, there couldn't have been a better day to race. The weather gods are being



Party-starter: Mark Ronson takes over the console at the TAG Heuer party



From one legend to another: Niki Lauda with George Lucas



Stormy weather: A glowering Fernando Alonso after a dissatisfying performance



Trail-blazer: Cara Delevingne gets behind the wheel of Alonso's McLaren racecar

particularly generous and it's immediately apparent why this postcard-perfect principality in the heart of the Mediterranean boasts the world's highest real estate.

At the hors d'oeuvres counter, a civil line is forming as the maître d' passes out artisanal cheeses and elegantly crafted desserts. It's an oddly satisfying combination once you've made your peace with the conspicuous lack of anything greasy.

On a giant television screen nearby, Monaco's Prince Albert and Princess Charlene are shown preparing to flag off the 73rd edition of the world's most glamorous Grand Prix. There will be no shortage of drama over the next few hours: Max Verstappen's unfortunate brush with Romain Grosjean that sends him careening into the barricade; the much-criticized decision of the Mercedes engineers to call Lewis Hamilton into the pit, destroying what looked like a sure victory; Alonso's unlucky turn that sees him nudge Nico Hulkenberg off the track, before being forced to bow out of the race due to an engineering issue.

When Nico Rosberg crosses the finish line to declare himself champion, the moment hangs in anti-climax. Hamilton was the crowd favourite, and when the crowds hit the spontaneous street parties that spring up all over the city after the race, many will be drowning their sorrows rather than toasting the winner.

In the pit lane below, an army of long-limbed, whittle-waisted beauties is passing by in a coordinated strut that sends the cameras into hyper-activity. It's Kendall Jenner, the Kardashian sister who holds the world record for the most-liked photo on Instagram (2.9 million and counting), flanked by her genetically gifted entourage of models, Gigi Hadid and Hailey Baldwin. Almost as a reflex, the women wave at the crowds still in the stands, no doubt expecting the breathless response they would be entitled to were this Paris Fashion Week or a film premiere in Los Angeles.

But this is the Monaco Grand Prix and the only celebrities who matter are the ones who've just left a trail of burnt rubber in the asphalt. And Niki Lauda. ☺

TAG HEUER X MCLAREN

To mark 30 years of

partnership between TAG Heuer and the McLaren F1 team – the longest in the history of the sport – the watchmaker unveiled this **Formula 1 Chronograph 42mm McLaren Special Edition**.

In the weeks leading up to the Monaco F1 race, the Swiss brand also released a special-edition **TAG Heuer Formula 1 Chronograph Senna Edition** dedicated to one of its most famous ambassadors, and one of the sport's best, Ayrton Senna. The legendary Brazilian driver won all his three world championships at the wheel of a McLaren.





#DontCrackUnderPressure



TAG Heuer

SWISS AVANT-GARDE SINCE 1860

AQUARACER CALIBRE 5

Cristiano Ronaldo is born to break all the records. His motivation is to win at every occasion to challenge the human statistics. Like TAG Heuer, Ronaldo surpasses the limits of his field and never cracks under pressure.

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- RELATIONSHIPS
- STYLE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- TRAVEL
- GROOMING

THE SMART MAN'S GUIDE TO THE BIG INDIAN WEDDING 2015

←
**GROOM
OF THE YEAR,
SHAHID KAPOOR
BREAKS IT
DOWN**

SHAHID KAPOOR
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
ERRIKOS ANDREOU



THE SMART MAN'S GUIDE TO THE BIG INDIAN WEDDING

HOW TO BRING IN
YOUR BIG DAY WITH STYLE

Giving you the complete wedding lowdown, from relationship rules and style to do's, to grooming advice, travel checklists and entertainment tips. GQ shows you how to rock the wedding season like a pro.

ON
STANDS
THIS
MONTH

WATCH ANATOMY 101

You're at a party and someone compliments your lugs. You shrug and resist the urge to say, 'Thanks, I've been working out.' Because, what are lugs again? This natty diagram, courtesy of GQ, tells you what's what in a watch. You're welcome



BRACELET

For a sportier look, or if you're likely to get your watch wet, go for a steel bracelet over a leather strap. Most bracelets are made of separate parts held together with screws or pins, though woven mesh bracelets are popular on dive watches.

PRO TIP: A well-designed strap can be just as iconic as the watch it is attached to. The Rolex Oyster and Audemars Piguet Royal Oak are famous for their precision-engineered bracelets.

OUR PICK: The TAG Heuer Link series is named after its distinctive bracelet and has been a staple of the brand's line-up since 1987.



MOVEMENT

This is the timekeeping heart of the watch. Timepieces come in four main flavours – manual, automatic, kinetic and quartz. Manual watches need to be wound by hand every day or so, whereas an automatic winds itself on your wrist. A kinetic piece uses the wearer's movements to charge a rechargeable battery, and a quartz is entirely hassle-free, ticking away with perfect accuracy for the life of the battery, regardless of whether it's worn or not.

PRO TIP: At the core of a watch's timekeeping ability is the movement's beat rate, or Hertz. This is the speed at which the movement's balance wheel oscillates – a vibration that gives a mechanical watch's second hand a characteristically smooth sweep. Watches with a higher beat rate tend to be more accurate.

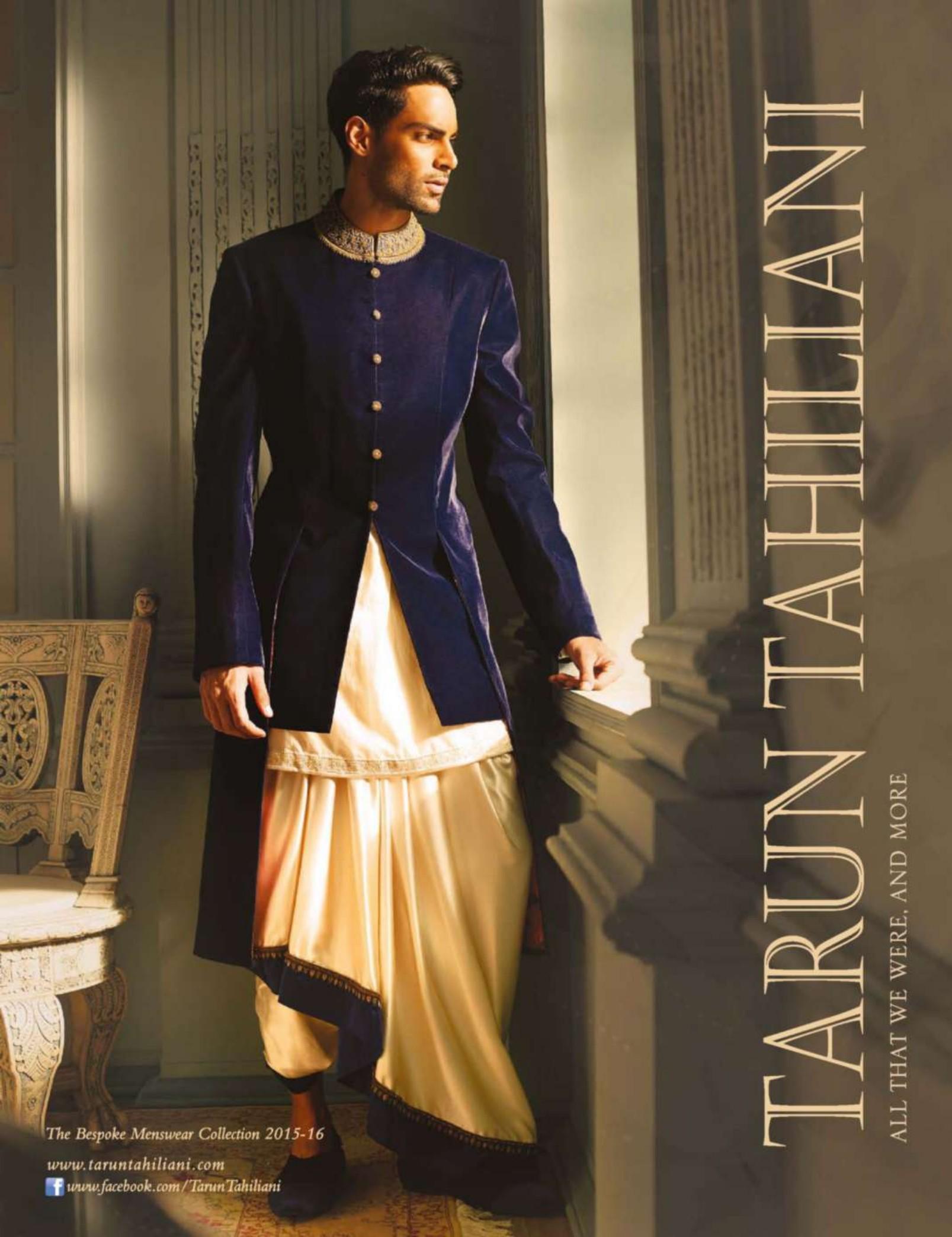
OUR PICK: Jaeger-LeCoultre is renowned for its movements, which don't get thinner than the 1.85mm Calibre 849 in the **Master Ultra Thin**.

CASE

Whatever the shape and style, the case keeps a watch together. Functionally, its job is to keep the movement safe – protecting it from shocks and keeping water out. Commonly made from steel, advances in technology have seen an increase in cases made from synthetic materials like carbon fibre and ceramic.

PRO TIP: Chances are your dream watch looks just as good from behind as up front. Many now include a sapphire caseback, so you can ogle the mechanical wonders inside.

OUR PICK: The ultra-resistant carbon-based case of the **Breitling for Bentley 6.75 Midnight Carbon** is another leap. The carbon treatment is applied to a brushed steel case, giving the finish a sexy matte look that appears to absorb light.



TARUN TAHILIANI

ALL THAT WE WERE, AND MORE

The Bespoke Menswear Collection 2015-16

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BEZEL

At its most basic, this is the metal ring surrounding the crystal that holds it in place – but it can do so much more. For example, on a dive watch the bezel will rotate, allowing the wearer to measure how much time has elapsed and, therefore, how much air is left in the tank.

PRO TIP: If you ever come across a Bakelite bezel insert from the original Rolex GMT, don't break it. They fetch over \$10,000 at auction.

OUR PICK: Rolex has an impressive list of world firsts, and the **2013 GMT-Master II** adds to it with a two-colour ceramic-cerachrom bezel.

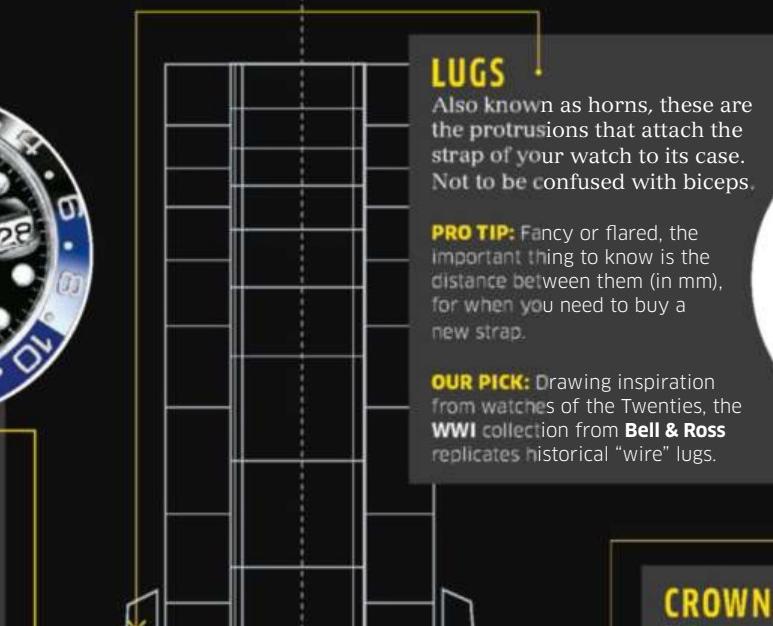


CRYSTAL

The protector of a watch's dial and hands, and the most frequently damaged part of a watch. Made from mineral crystal (glass) or acrylic (plastic), though most high-end watches have synthetic, scratch-proof sapphire crystals.

PRO TIP: Sapphire is more prone to shattering, meaning a hard knock could potentially be catastrophic.

OUR PICK: Professional dive watches can live and die by the strength of a crystal – the **Oris ProDiver Date** is rated to 1000m, so you know it's packing an especially thick sapphire.



LUGS

Also known as horns, these are the protrusions that attach the strap of your watch to its case. Not to be confused with biceps.

PRO TIP: Fancy or flared, the important thing to know is the distance between them (in mm), for when you need to buy a new strap.

OUR PICK: Drawing inspiration from watches of the Twenties, the **WWI collection** from **Bell & Ross** replicates historical "wire" lugs.



CROWN

If the movement is the heart of the watch, the crown is the defibrillator. Sort of. The crown is how you interact with the timekeeping and other functions of the watch – setting the time, date or any other complications.

PRO TIP: Watches with more than 100m of water resistance will usually have a screw-down crown, to protect against moisture.

OUR PICK: The **Panerai PAM 518** is housed in a platinum case polished to such a lustre that it almost appears molten. The crown features the official logo of Officine Panerai to indicate Panerai "conquers the highest skies and the deepest seas".



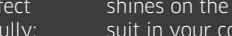
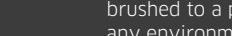
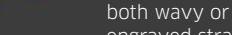
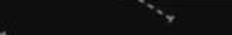
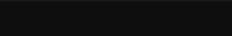
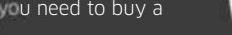
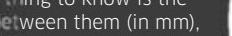
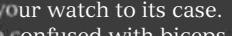
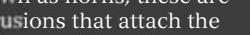
DIAL AND HANDS

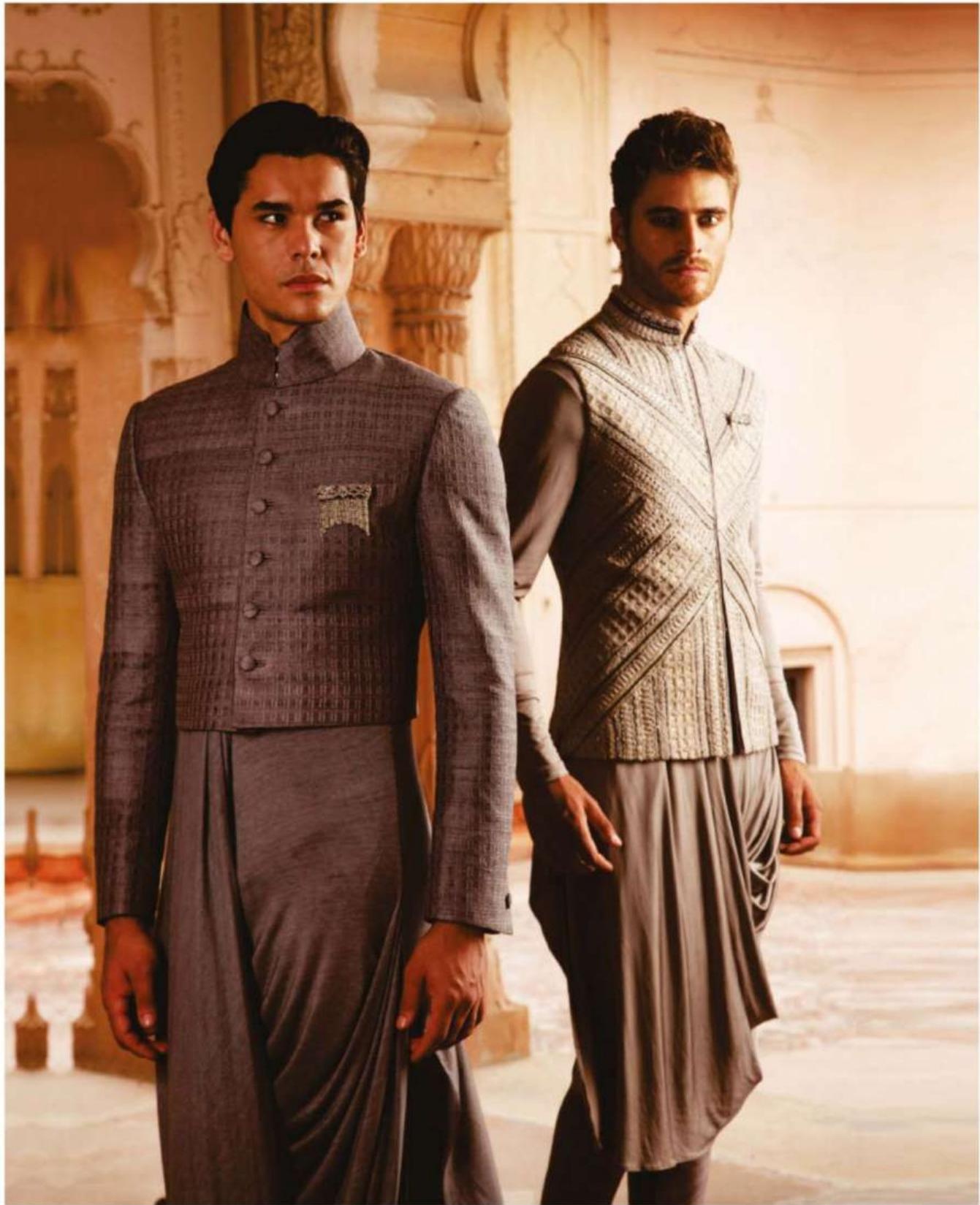
These are the analogue equivalent of the user interface, converting the timekeeping capacity of the movement into readable hours, minutes and seconds.

PRO TIP: Popular finishes to the dial are sunburst, a satiny effect that catches the light beautifully;

guilloche, horizontal or vertical lines both wavy or straight; and flinqué, engraved straight or wavy lines in a radial movement.

OUR PICK: The dial of the **Blancpain Fifty Fathoms Bathyscaphe** is radially brushed to a point where, in almost any environment, it offers an exciting visual light play. Yet another diver that shines on the cuff of even the finest suit in your collection.





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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Making your career on the back of your father's rep is going to get you a lot of envy-filled haters. But being born into a Bollywood family isn't the free ride you think it is, and the more successful **VARUN DHAWAN** gets, the more he learns who's got his back; who he can trust, and who he can't.

JACKET BY BURBERRY.
SHIRT, SNEAKERS; BOTH BY
ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA.
JEANS BY CALVIN KLEIN.
TIE BY TOM FORD.
WATCH BY AUDEMARS PIGUET

Photographed by ARJUN MARK
Styled by TANYA VOHRA
Written by DAVE BESSELING

'KIDS ARE MORE HONEST, I KNOW THEY'RE GENUINE. WITH ADULTS, IT'S LIKE, DTA - DON'T TRUST ANYBODY'

It's a bit surreal, being driven down the NH8 through Goregaon, chatting away with someone, and suddenly having that someone's head appear behind them, billboard-sized on the side of the Oberoi Mall.

"Yeah it's weird," says Varun Dhawan, looking over his hoodie-draped shoulder as we pass the four-storey version of his face. "Everyone wants to look like a Greek god, they want every girl to find them sexy, but sometimes, with that, you lose a certain relatability."

This is not the first time Varun's mug has functioned as a navigational landmark. Since his inaugural role in 2012's *Student Of The Year*, the now 28-year-old has been riding a peerless gallop of hits, making him Bollywood's boy wonder, which means he's also one of the most saleable faces on the Subcontinent.

"The more boy-next-door you are," he explains, adjusting a bunching in his Air Jordan basketball shorts, "the more people want you to do their ads. The more weirdly cool you try to make yourself; it's all the less."

In a society so accomplished at producing dependent adult males, Bollywood excels commensurately at pumping out lumpen-approved man-boys. Good clean kids for a good clean country. Doyens of the matinée. Auntie-friendly idolatry. Which may or may not be why Varun followed this year's moody, brooding *Badlapur* by shifting back into hi-gloss with the innocuous dance-off sequel, *ABCD2*.

Regardless, when his sixth film, *Dilwale*, opens later this year, Varun will be on screen with the most recognizable Bollywood star in the world, the man who's collected more endorsement deals than the Pope's got votive candles: Shah Rukh Khan.

There is hype. The good kind. The kind that should assuage any anxiety about *Dilwale* being Varun's first flop. (Which puts even more pressure on his next film after that, *Dishoom*, directed by his brother, Rohit. Having *Dishoom* bomb would be all the more ruinous for Varun having previously done so spectacularly well. It's Murphy's Law. Or in India: Murthy's Law.)

"There is a lot of comedy in *Dilwale*, it's going to make people smile," says Varun, as his Audi Quattro SUV cruises through the lights at the Western Expressway metro station. "It's larger than life, but people will relate to it, because the emotions are all relatable."

This is Varun's leitmotif for the day, this idea of "relatability".

A muffled ringtone, and the driver hands Varun an antique handset, a black & white, dot-matrix screen, but Varun can't hear anyone on the other end affirm his "Haan, I'm on my way home", so he picks up his comparative Trojan Magnum of a mobile, the screen girthy enough to see he's going to dial "Papa".

Varun is informed there will be five kids waiting at home for an impromptu meet and greet, furnished by Varun baba's papa, director of over 50 films and frequent Govinda collaborator-wither, David Dhawan.

"It's much better meeting children than adults," says Varun. "Maybe it's subconscious, but I feel that kids are more honest. I know they're genuine."

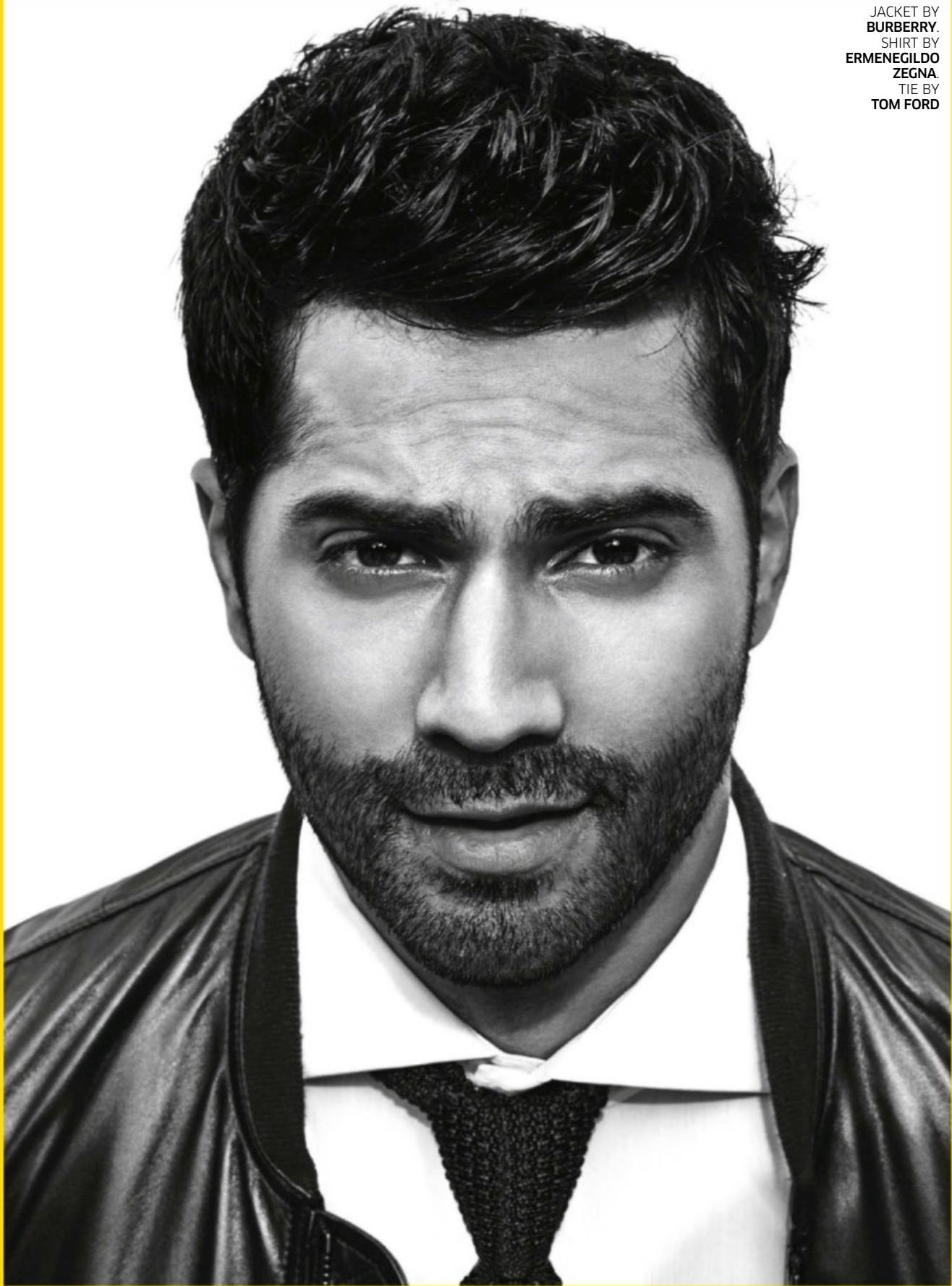
As for relating to adults, "It's like, you know, DTA," he says. "Don't Trust Anybody."

Varun learned by age seven or so – "just after my father's film *Raja Babu* had released" – that he wasn't like the ordinary kids, that he wouldn't be able to relate to them the way they related to each other.

"There was this friend of mine called Shweta," he says, as we cross over the Western suburban railway line with a soft couple of 21-inch-rim *kuh-thuks*, "and we were hanging out on top of my building's *tanki*, and the watchman got pissed off, we were kids, we might fall, and she said to the guard, 'Hey, don't you know who his dad is?' And I was like, 'Wait a minute, who is my dad??'

Despite all the places his babyface would take him in life, Varun began to understand that because of papa Dhawan, no one was ever going to take him at face value. He would always have to second-guess people's motives. He'd have to keep his band of friends close. He'd have to cut lots of people off. He'd →

JACKET BY
BURBERRY.
SHIRT BY
**ERMENEGILDO
ZEGNA**.
TIE BY
TOM FORD





JACKET BY

ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA.

TROUSERS BY ETRO.

POCKET SQUARE BY

CORNELIANI. BOOTS BY

CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

LADIES LOVE VD - THE INFECTIOUS SMILE, THE CONTAGIOUS CHARM, THE VIRAL TWEETS. IT'S A CONDITION

eventually give fake names – “Suresh, Rahul, a few others” – when registering for acting classes, just to get some honest feedback.

“I’d watched movies,” explains Varun, “where fathers were famous and the children go into their shell, they become really sensitive, and then overcome it when they get older. But I thought, ‘Why don’t I just skip all this sensitivity bullshit?’”

So he went off to college in a notoriously rough English city, where Robin Hood had once led the Occupy Feudalism movement, clashing with the evil hedgerow manager, the Sheriff of Nottingham – a traditional pedigree of violence, more recently punning the city’s name into “Shottingham”.

“There’s a lot of gun crime over there,” Varun reminisces, “It’s a crazy place. I grew up so much. I got into fights, but I got good grades.” Mostly, Varun Dhawan discovered the scientific method, by researching, empirically and tirelessly, the university’s claim that the female to male ratio was 6:1.

Turns out, Varun says, “it’s more like 3:1.”

It’s true, ladies love VD – the infectious smile, the contagious charm, the viral tweets. It’s a condition. Treatments may cause dryness of mouth, cramps, memory loss or sweaty palms. Consult your local physician. Always use protection.

But Varun’s was not a showpiece Engluation to justify a fulltime position in Mumbai’s professional nepotism industry. He really did plan to give banking a go.

“I’ve been charged with [nepotism],” he says with a twinge, “but it should also be said that when I got home, I went for a

Citibank internship, and in the half-hour interview, the bank manager only spoke to me about films, my favourite films, his favourite films, and I said to myself, ‘What am I doing? What’s the use?’”

“So you realized you couldn’t escape your name, you left the office, ripped off your tie and threw it on the ground?” I joke, “That’s like the first scene of a movie.”

“That’s exactly what happened!” laughs Varun, shifting his haunches in his leather seat, flicking his foot in his plastic chappal. “A friend of mine, Neha, was standing outside, and she said, ‘How did it go?’ and I said ‘I’m entering the movies.’”

“What did your old man think about that?”

“My dad said, ‘do what you want, just don’t expect me to...’ he said, ‘just find your own way, and do it in a good way, so you don’t disrespect my position.’”

David Dhawan refused to “launch” Varun. And it’s taken seven films for the director to consider working with his son. Forget favouritism, until now, Varun has come with an element of liability.

“People just see me and think, ‘oh that guy is all sorted,’ and then I wonder why I’m telling you my stories. Am I doing it to gain sympathy? I feel like I struggle every day, but then I feel bad talking about it.”

On Juhu Tara Road, Varun points to a shop on the left selling baby clothes – where a lot of Varun’s baby clothes were bought – and to the right, the building his family used to live in until 10 years ago, when they went from living amongst the Haves to the Have-Lots.

“I wish I could still go into the Shiv Sagar back there,” he says, sucking air through his teeth. “I used to go there with my back-then girlfriend. She used to call me a low-budget boyfriend. This was before the Starbucks came in. These days I guess she’d rather go there.”

On a private beach-access road by the Starbucks, Varun welcomes me to the house that Dhawan Senior built: a dining area, a staggered few sets of seating areas on the way to a balcony, all a gallimaufry of beige and garnet and gold, a lot of inset wall pillars, decorative ashtrays on glass tables supported by sets of wooden swans. Sindhi gold. Sicilian statuettes. Like your grandmother was on hand to keep Liberace’s decorator frugal, but not necessarily sober.

And there’s a glassed-in bit, the den or whatever you want to call it, the room with the slatted wooden shades and distressed, copper-dome leather furniture, an old steamer trunk for a coffee table. Shakti Kapoor may have his Juhu Beach mancave, but his *Raja Babu* director has a Vito Corleone study.

The five waiting kids are a daughter-niece-nephew-coupl’a friends combo, chaperoned by a very round, very affable man called Rajat. David soon appears – more late-Eighties Brando than *Godfather* Brando – ushering Varun into the room for a selfie with each kid and a weezie with the whole group, and I see what Varun means about kids being more honest, therefore more relatable than adults.

There’s the teenager, made-up and wearing clothes a mother would definitely not deem school-appropriate, who says, tremulously, “I can’t believe I’m standing next to you,” to which Varun gives a quicksnap, “oh come on please yaar.”

The younger two are embarrassed into speechlessness, and the one girl, who clearly doesn’t care who Varun is or what he does, is captured in HDR with the “Daaaaaad, you’re embarrassing me” look smeared painfully across her face. She has no idea how to relate to any of this.

“See what I mean?” says Varun, full stage-grin, bright-eyed for the fans. “I love kids.” ☺



SUIT, SHIRT; BOTH BY
PAUL SMITH. TIE BY **SS HOMME**. POCKET SQUARE BY **16 STITCHES**. WATCH BY **BREITLING**. SHOES BY **ROBERTO CAVALLI**

HAIR: SHEFALI SHETTY/
BBLUNT

MAKE-UP: MONA ANAND/
BBLUNT

PRODUCTION:
VASUNDHARA SHARMA &
IMAGE PRODUCTIONS

ASSISTANT STYLIST:
DESIREE FERNANDES



I FEEL LIKE I
STRUGGLE EVERY
DAY, BUT THEN I
FEEL BAD TALKING
ABOUT IT'

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY.COM



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AMBIENCE MALL, GURGAON

GQ

EDITED BY
VIJENDRA BHARDWAJ &
SHIVANGI LOLAYEKAR

What To Wear Now

Autumn/Winter 2015-16

Everything you need to look on point

CARDIGAN,
SCARF,
SUSPENDERS,
CORDUROY
SUIT; ALL BY
**BOTTEGA
VENETA**

PHOTO: TARUN VISHWA. STYLIST: VIJENDRA BHARDWAJ. ASSISTANT STYLIST: TANYA VOHRA. HAIR: SHEFALI SHETTY/BBLUNT.
MAKE-UP: XAVIER D'SOUZA/FATMU. MODEL: LOVE/INEGA MODELS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

THE
WOOLMARK
COMPANY

WHAT TO WEAR NOW
A/W'15-16

GQ ENDORSES

CANALI

GQ
Style Tip

STRIPES ARE THE NEW SOLIDS. DON'T USE THEM SPARINGLY



THE DOUBLE-BREASTED SUIT

Witness the newest avatar of the double-breasted suit – it's slimmer, shorter, and, in the case of **Canali**'s chalk stripe tweed, comes with twice the swag

WHODUNNIT

THE GENTLEMEN WHO'VE CRACKED THE DB CODE



THE COOL WOOL CLUB

When it comes to fashion that's equal parts innovative, laid-back and cool, designers Rajesh Pratap Singh and Suket Dhir weave 'cool wool' into their creations as the latter puts his best foot forward to score the coveted International Woolmark Prize this year. We turn the spotlight to Brooks Brothers, Park Avenue and Raymond who lend the GQ man a lesson in cool wool style



THE
WOOLMARK
COMPANY

RAJESH PRATAP SINGH'S modern and pure aesthetic

Delhi-based Rajesh Pratap Singh has created a unique signature style that subtly draws from his Rajasthani roots. Faultlessly clean lines, careful detailing and international silhouettes lend uniqueness to his unparalleled designs. Singh's work epitomises simplicity, yet combines modern with traditional, complementing the unique attributes of the Merino wool fibre



THE INDIAN INFLUENCE:

"We use traditional Indian techniques with a modern and global view to add an element of surprise. I remain influenced by the materials I use, my travels, the people

and techniques that inspire me, as well as architecture and precision engineering."

The RAJESH PRATAP SINGH MAN:

"He is an intelligent and well travelled man, who understands and appreciates fine material as well as the construction of the clothes he wears. He is always willing to experiment."

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY:

"Modern, clean and pure. Indian, but not kitsch. The materials, construction and shape are paramount for me, rather than fleeting trends."

ON COOL WOOL:

"Wool is becoming integral to my designs. I have worked with wool indigo, wool ikats and wool jacquards. It's an aspect that is evolving rapidly, particularly for our main line, resulting in an individualistic, unique result. We have introduced a new dimension to traditional Indian textiles, most of which are hand-woven and hand-spun. To work with Merino wool from the fibre and yarn stage has been a fruitful challenge. Although I was announced as The Woolmark Company's first Indian ambassador since 2013, I have been using Merino wool since I began designing—over the last two years I have received a lot of technical help to develop new textiles, which I weave in my textile facility."

THE IDOLS:

Mahatma Gandhi, Keith Richards, Jivi Sethi, Serge Gainsbourg and most importantly, Vijay Sharma of Sikar.

GQ PROMOTION



THE
WOOLMARK
COMPANY

SUKET DHIR'S indigenous design spirit

Suket Dhir is his own muse. Perhaps it's his striking personal style that serves as an inspiration, or his passion for natural fibres and immaculate craftsmanship. Recently winning the menswear International Woolmark Prize regional final for India, Pakistan and the Middle East, the designer's less is more philosophy delivers luxury clothing that is, as he puts it 'global with Indian soul'.

THE INDIAN INFLUENCE:

"India has a rich cultural diversity—the variety of crafts that one encounters on a daily basis end up consciously or unconsciously affecting our aesthetics. There is an energy and an old-world charm which inspires us to design the way we do. India's long, vibrant history and its artisanal heritage serve as inspiration. Our products are trans-seasonal but lean towards the summer."

THE SUKETDHIR MAN:

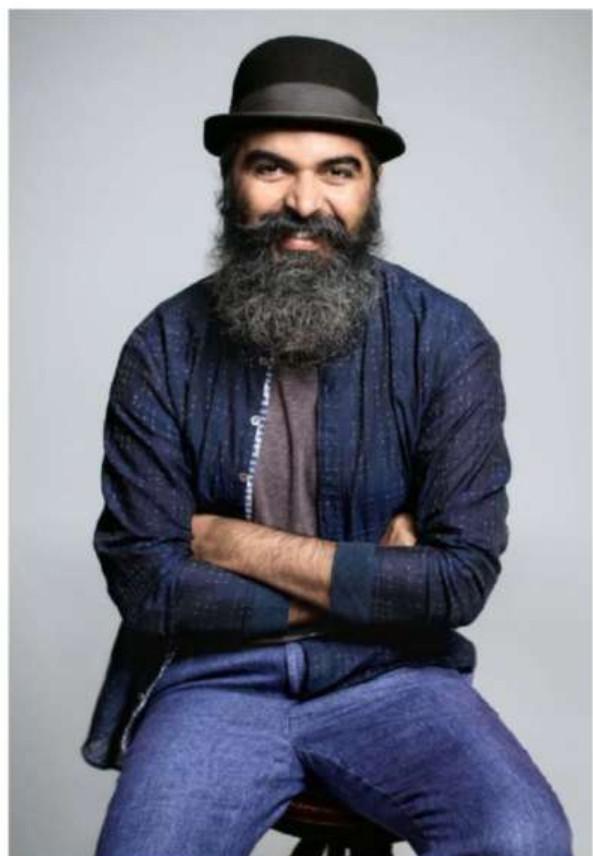
"The SUKETDHIR man is masculine, smart and elegant. At the same time, there is a subtle element of 'nazakat' (Persian for a combination of delicate, elegance, poise) about our products. Our sharp, no-frills designs also appeal to women who appreciate androgynous style. I make things I would like to wear—it's very instinctive. I've always been attracted to simplicity and minimal aesthetics, yet I incorporate quirky elements. It's an internalised soul-centric brand. My designs are derived from personal experiences."

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY:

"'Less is More' is central to our philosophy. SUKETDHIR is committed to unflinching quality and delivering a great product. Our attention to immaculate handcrafting, detailing and use of natural materials goes a long way in our delivery of luxury. We celebrate comfort; the aesthetic evolution embodies a timeless quality that keeps our designs relevant and stylish years later."

ON COOL WOOL:

"Initially we bought Cool Wool only for our office wear orders. The Woolmark experience has opened the possibilities of developing our own exclusive fabrics. Winning would be a great boost for the brand and for



me personally. It will reflect global appreciation, relevance and acceptability, and will hopefully serve as a timely catalyst for our global plans.

THE IDOL:

Steve Jobs and Osho inspire me.

GQ PROMOTION

PHOTOGRAPHER: ASHAY KSHIRSAGAR; STYLIST: KUSHAL PARMANAND; HAIR AND MAKEUP: SUNNY KAMBLE; FASHION ASSISTANTS: ARSHIA KACHWALA, ROCHELLE D'SA



THE
WOOLMARK
COMPANY

DANIEL CRAIG IN SKYFALL (2012)



WHAT TO WEAR NOW
A/W '15-16

BEANIE BY JACK & JONES, ₹1,250

HYPERCHROME SI3N4 WATCH BY RADO, PRICE ON REQUEST

MOHAIR BLEND BANDHGALA BY PAUL SMITH, ₹76,900



REVERSIBLE HOODIE BY BEING HUMAN, ₹3,200

HERRINGBONE TIE BY CORNELIANI, ₹12,000

BACKPACK BY DIESEL, ₹11,000



GREY

Liven up the classic colour with sharp tailoring and upbeat accessories

DAMIER GRAPHITE SLIP-ONS BY LOUIS VUITTON, PRICE ON REQUEST

BOMBER JACKET BY LOUIS PHILIPPE, ₹5,000

GQ
Style Tip

GOING HEAD-TO-TOE GREY? BREAK IT UP WITH DIFFERENT TEXTURES

BROOKS BROTHERS

SALVATORE FERRAGAMO

HERMÈS



STYLISH COOL WOOL ESSENTIALS

Three ways to work wool into your wardrobe



BROOKS BROTHERS

This 'Made in Italy', two-button suit is fashioned using pure Saxxon® wool. It features framed interior pockets to eliminate stress points and railroad stitching across the collar for stability that perfectly exemplifies the Fitzgerald fit.

Style tip: Get quirky with this suit by teaming it with a tie and a pair of socks in a contrasting colour.



RAYMOND

This structured double-breasted white suit, complemented by a striking cobalt overcoat, impeccably fuses the vintage with the contemporary.

Style tip: Complete your look with leather brogues in a rich chocolate colour.



PARK AVENUE

The 'platinum suit' with its natural lustre and fluid fall is specially crafted with a wool and silk blend, taking you seamlessly from the boardroom to the bar.

Style tip: Wear with a printed pocket square; metallic cuff links complete the look.



THE
WOOLMARK
COMPANY



SUNGGLASSES BY
RAY-BAN, ₹8,500



CUFFLINKS BY
SALVATORE
FERRAGAMO,
₹21,000

HAND-DYED LEATHER
BROGUES BY CORNELIANI,
₹56,000



LEATHER BELT BY
CORNELIANI, ₹16,000

GQ FOCUS: VELVET

THE NEXT STEP IN THE GREAT
VELVET REVIVAL? BREAK INTO IT
BEFORE BREAKING IT ALL UP

WHAT TO
WEAR
NOW
A/W '15-16



WINE

Designers everywhere get creative with
formalwear's favourite colour



watches

calvinklein.com

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FIND YOUR MOMENT #ckminute

Calvin Klein
swiss made



KNIT
SWEATER BY
GAS, ₹6,000



ELVIS PRESLEY,
CIRCA 1957

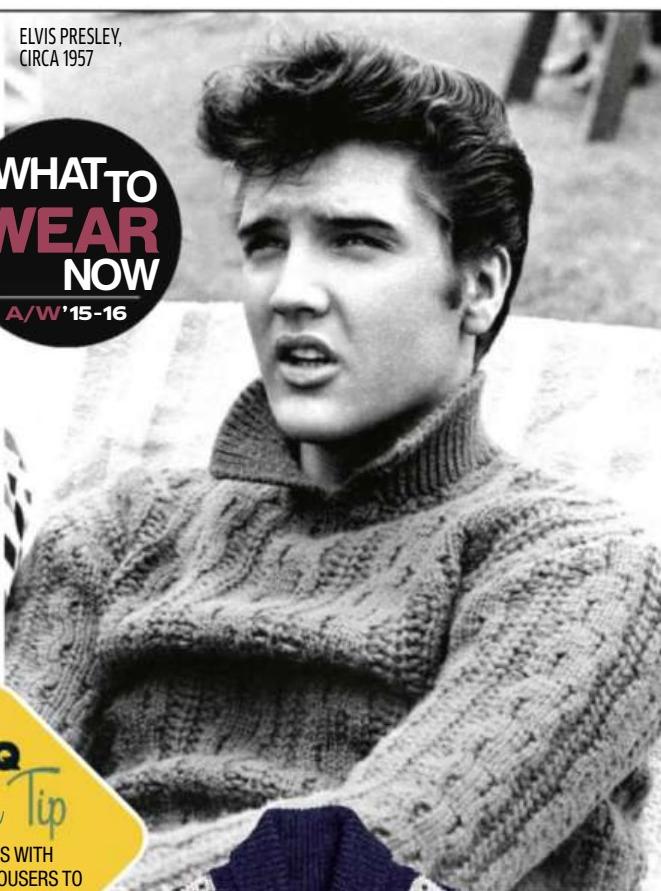
WHAT TO
WEAR
NOW

A/W'15-16

A/W'15-16



CASHMERE SCARF
BY HERMÈS, PRICE
ON REQUEST



KNITS

They frame your face, keep you snug, hide that end-of-the-year tummy bulge, and make you look downright dapper. Boom



TOM FORD

DIESEL BLACK GOLD

CANALI

CORNELIANI



CARDIGAN BY
CELIO, ₹5,000

GQ
Style Tip

PAIR KNITS WITH
SLIM-CUT TROUSERS TO
AVOID LOOKING LIKE
A BALLOON

GQ FOCUS: POCKETS

GO ODD-SHAPED, OVERSIZED OR LEATHER



SALVATORE FERRAGAMO



VALENTINO



ICEBERG



ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA



NEIL BARRETT



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BE SUITED
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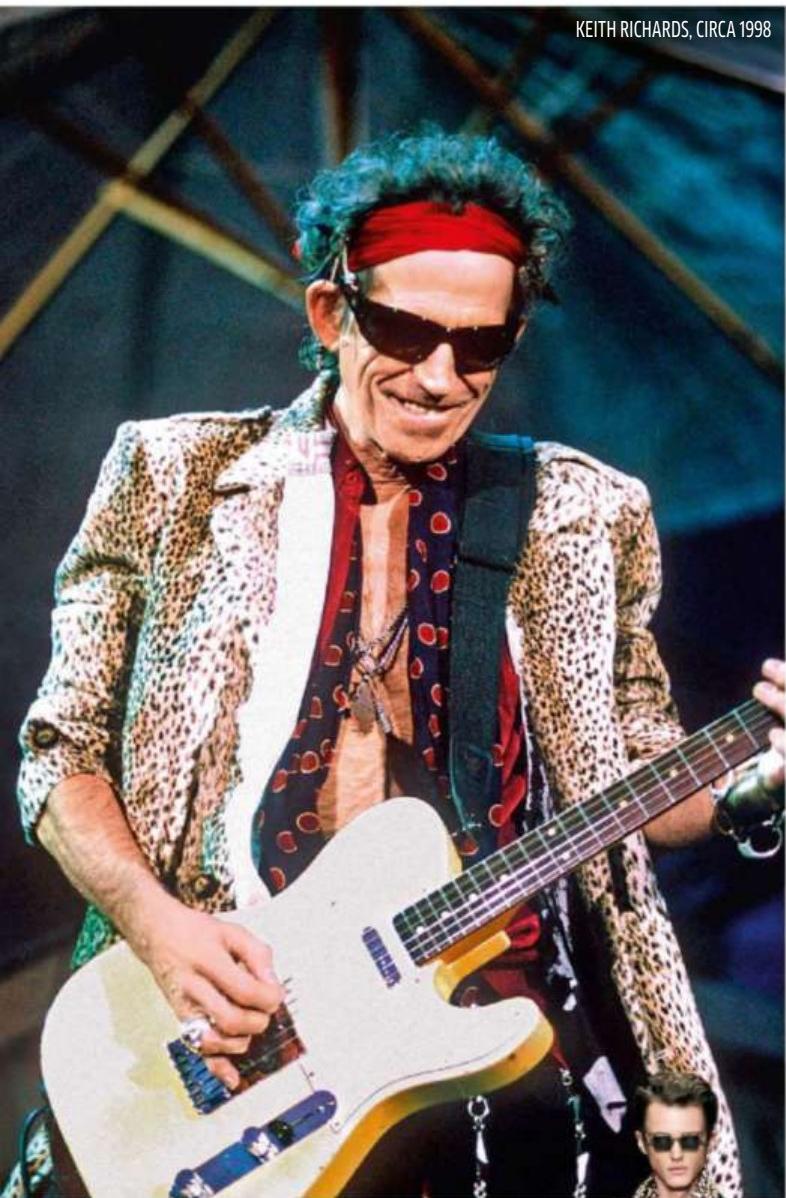
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GQ FOCUS: LEOPARD



GQ
Style Tip

PICK ONE LEOPARD PRINT
PIECE TO WORK WITH. KEEP
THE REST OF YOUR LOOK
MINIMAL

PRINT PLAY

Menswear rediscovers its non-conformist spirit, with delicate florals and bold animal prints leading the charge



CASHMERE SWEATER BY BURBERRY,
₹1,49,000



GQ 13 TOP BUYS

PULL OFF THE TREND WITH
THESE STRIKING PIECES

DISCLAIMER:
ONE AT A TIME



6

SPACE PUFFER JACKET BY JACK & JONES, ₹3,200



ZX FLUX TRAINERS BY ADIDAS ORIGINALS, ₹7,000

7



8

BACKPACK BY JACK & JONES, ₹2,500



9

SHIRT BY BEING HUMAN, ₹2,500

"IF YOU TAKE AWAY PRINT, YOU HAVE TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF A BIT MORE ON THE CUT."
—JOSEPH ALTUZARRA

10

SOCKS BY HAPPY SOCKS, ₹300



11

SHIRT BY BOMBAY SHIRT COMPANY, ₹2,500



12



BOMBER JACKET BY ADIDAS, ₹5,000

GOMMINO DRIVING MOCASSINS BY TOD'S, ₹31,000



13

WHAT TO WEAR NOW
A/W'15-16

GQ FOCUS: FLORAL



VIVIENNE WESTWOOD

DOLCE & GABBANA



MACHO MAN

Face paint and feminine silhouettes did nothing to tame Riccardo Tisci's ultra-masculine models for **Givenchy**. In one word: Olympian.



LOUDEST BUZZ

Arguably the biggest menswear moment of the season was Alessandro Michele's appointment as creative director at **Gucci**. Word is he was designing the collection right up until show time.

GQ EYE

The top runway moments from men's fashion week



GREEN PEACE

Welcome to the jungle, where trees abound and a muddy runway is the only ground to walk on. Stefano Pilati's set for **Ermenegildo Zegna** perfectly summed up the minimal, nature-heavy mood of the season.



Halfway between Heaven and Earth,
where bagpipes grow faint, conversations freeze
and the footsteps of men are uncommon,
you'll find the "God of the Glens"

George Smith
footsteps in one

THE
GLENLIVET



Belt

BELT BY GAS, ₹2,500



1



Luggage

CARRY-ON SUITCASE BY GUCCI, PRICE ON REQUEST

2

Gloves

GLOVES BY ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA, PRICE ON REQUEST



WHAT TO WEAR NOW
A/W '15-16

3

THE ACCENTS

The season's top accessories to upgrade your look



Brooches

PALLADIUM FINISH NATURAL DRIED FLOWER BROOCHES BY DIOR HOMME, PRICE ON REQUEST

6



Carryall

WEEKENDER BAG BY SALVATORE FERRAGAMO, ₹2,09,880

5



Muffler

MUFFLER BY HERMÈS, PRICE ON REQUEST

4

7



Shades

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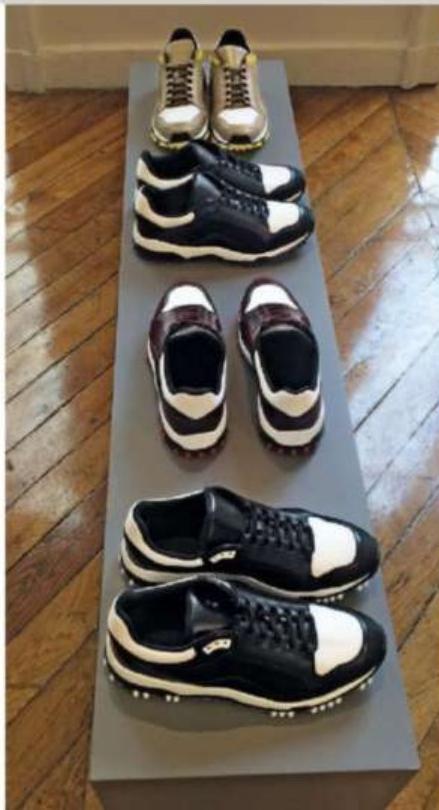
A SYMPHONY OF DETAIL

Even in this age of celebrity and spectacle, Dior Homme's **Kris Van Assche** shows that nothing speaks louder than the brilliance of your work

INTERVIEWED BY **CHE KURRIEN**

If there's an interview you don't want to be late for, it's one with Kris Van Assche. Dior Homme's Belgian creative director has a reputation for extreme precision – an outlook that informs his creative process, and his daily schedule. Yet here I am at L'Avenue, a swanky Paris brasserie, still awaiting my horribly delayed lunch service, when I see Kris purposefully walking down the street heading to our meeting – which is scheduled to start in the next six minutes.

I abandon my table and sprint towards the exit, leaving the waiters flummoxed. As soon as I bound into the Dior Homme offices, I'm led into an inner sanctum, and thirty seconds later, Kris strides in – bang on time. He's wearing a blue jacket over a T-shirt and jeans, with trademark white sneakers – a product line that's a blockbuster hit for the iconic French fashion house, worn by cool kids from Berlin to São Paulo. The previous evening, fashion's power elite had gathered to watch Dior Homme's Fall/Winter 2015-16 show, always one of the most anticipated presentations of the season – a show that included a live orchestra playing at full force. The mood was electric, and social feeds lit up, immediately proclaiming the show a success within minutes of its end. When I interview Kris now, there is no arrogance in his demeanour or haughtiness in his words; just quiet confidence, clarity and the thoughtfulness that comes from being at the top of your game.



What does creativity mean in the context of menswear?

Menswear is about rules. And a large part of the creative process is about pushing the limits, without going too far. It's about finding that balance between a strong evolution and costume design. I'm actually happy working within certain constraints.

How do you deal with the pressure of designing so many collections?

The pace is difficult. It's the price you pay for success. The collections are doing well, and I can't be unhappy about that. The pace has forced me to be more creative and precise. Since there are so many collections, the message of each has to be really precise.

Do creative people get better with age?

I think I've gotten better with age. Each movie I watch, each country I visit, each book I read gives me more information. That's helped me be a better designer. That's all aside from the fact that season after season I have the opportunity to work at the Dior atelier, which is a permanent learning process. I don't see how I could have become a worse designer.

Dior Homme is technically brilliant, very refined and intelligent. Those are codes people know. What are some of the lesser-known aspects?

I'm constantly stressing on the comfort factor of our clothes. In order to be modern,



our clothes need to be both elegant and comfortable. A lot of my energy and time goes towards this – rethinking the structure of suits. That's what's inspiring me the most now.

Does one have to suffer a bit to look great?

Menswear has evolved a lot. Ten years ago only a few men were wearing high-end fashion, and they were willing to suffer to look good. But since a huge number of men across the world these days are interested in dressing well, the importance of comfort has increased. On a personal note, about 15 years ago I was ready to suffer. I no longer am. That's not a modern way of living. Luxury today is also comfort.

You reference Mr Dior in your work – what does his presence mean to you personally and to your process?

It wasn't something imposed on me. No one said "You should be talking about Mr Dior". It came to me while I was designing the previous winter season's collection where I imagined each silhouette having its own distinct identity. Before that, the collections were basically one idea over 45 silhouettes, which seemed almost clonish – reworking the same type of person, the same type of character, 45 times. Last winter I wanted to make the point that luxury is also about choice, about being able to dress different types of men with distinct needs. So it made total sense to start with Mr Dior himself – the first Dior homme, so to speak. The fact that he was so superstitious, that he had all these very human sides – it's these that speak to me, much more than his designer side. So I started getting interested in his personality, and little elements of him started finding their way into the collection. This was my endeavour: to make it more human, less abstract. It's also a pleasant way to acknowledge the house that I'm working for, to anchor the collection within a whole.

What makes you happy?

[Laughs] Happiness is the perfect balance between my professional life and my private life.

How do you manage that in this era of celebrity?

The way I handle things are the way I feel they should be handled. I'm very happy to explain my work. I'm very happy to do interviews after the show because it's work that I'm happy to defend and it's part of the job. That being said, I will not give interviews at my house, on my sofa. I don't think it's necessary to have pictures of my home in the newspapers. That's where the



"MENSWEAR IS ABOUT RULES. AND A LARGE PART OF THE CREATIVE PROCESS IS ABOUT PUSHING THE LIMITS, WITHOUT GOING TOO FAR"



balance is today. In the future it may make sense to do so, but for now it doesn't.

They say that to break the rules you have to master them. What are some of the conventions you've helped upend?
I'm obliged to talk about tailoring – which is the most technical aspect of menswear. A lot of my time has gone into modernizing the tailoring, to keep the surface similar but to re-work the insides so that it's more suited to everyday life. That's been the biggest chunk of my work over the past few years. Women got out of the corset but men

didn't get out of the tight tailoring. Which is a cliché, but also true. A stiff suit is not conducive to leading an active life. That said, the suit is more powerful than ever, some sort of general code that men use in all sorts of social situations. Which takes me back to your first question about rules and creativity. Men need suits. That's the rule. What's creativity in that context? How can we improve the function of it? That's the process.

What is the future of menswear?

I'm not a fashion industry veteran yet, but I remember 15 years ago when there would be one collection that would be the collection of the season. I think that's gone forever. Now there are a few very good collections, each addressing different types of people. There's no longer just one definition of what the next season is going to be about. There are many relevant ones because there are many types of needs and many types of styles. And that's a very good thing. Today there's room enough for a few visions. There's also so much more communication around the collections. Everybody – and you will not like this – is taking pictures and becoming part of some form of communication. Journalists, too. Also, luxury has gone global, with similar stores across the world. So the real luxury in the future will be the individual – individuality.

You said in an interview with Rick Owens that you didn't fit in growing up. Why was that?

I was an only child who grew up in a small town in Belgium that had very little space for creativity or personality. Everybody had to kind of fit into some sort of group – you had to blend in. That's the way I grew up and that was the way I was told to be. Yet I felt different and I tried to be different. I couldn't wait to get out of there. But I was not an unhappy child.

How did coming from that sort of background shape you creatively?

I think it's a large part of the reason why Belgian fashion has been so strong: nobody actually notices Belgians. So we had to be much stronger to be noticed.

What's your greatest fear?

It would be nice if I could be the one to decide when all this stops. I like what I do. My fear is that it stops before I'm ready for it to stop.

What are your obsessions?

I'd like to say that my last show was my best one. ☺



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GQ drive

■ If you must get lost in the Alps, make sure you're driving an Audi Q7
■ Coimbatore's latest museum traces the history of the automobile



SUVs aren't the plus-sized people-haulers they were a decade ago. They're now slicker, sportier and sexier than ever. **Varun Godinho** travels to Switzerland to test-drive the new **Audi Q7** that ticks all the right boxes, and then some →

Grand tour

GQ
TEST
DRIVE





Etting lost in a foreign country, even behind the wheel of a fancy SUV, isn't as glamorous, adventurous or hilarious as *EuroTrip* suggests. I'm somewhere in the mountains above Sion in Switzerland, utterly lost. Yes, Audi's flagship Q7 SUV has a state-of-the-art nav system that displays a live, high-def satellite image of my location on the screen in front of me. And the Audi team has also tracked my whereabouts (since my ride is connected to the interwebs) and assured me that I'm not more than 100m away from the road I should actually be on. The road that should lead me to my destination 60km away, in Verbier, where they're waiting for me.

But while I'm still on the phone with the team, my co-driver and I have somehow found ourselves in a private driveway. And we've interrupted a young blonde woman in the middle of a sunbathing session. She rushes inside, then returns in a robe and, quite unexpectedly, flashes us a broad smile, even as we profusely apologize for landing up there. She genially accepts our apologies, and merely asks us to mind her kids' toys scattered around while backing out of her property – which we do in a hurry.

Earlier that day, I was seated in a noisy InterSky turboprop charter plane from Munich to Sion, the capital of the Swiss canton of Valais. As we began our descent into the Rhone valley – now thawed over from the winter, and carpeted in thick pine forests – I caught a glimpse of two football stadiums. The beautiful game has a connection to this place that's not all that pretty: One of Valais' most (in)famous natives is former FIFA chief Sepp Blatter, a "crusty old Helvetic megalomaniac" (as one media commentator recently put it).

I FIND MYSELF IN A PRIVATE DRIVEWAY WHERE I'VE INTERRUPTED A YOUNG BLONDE WOMAN IN THE MIDDLE OF A SUNBATHING SESSION

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Ironically, I'm here on the same day that Blatter's house of knaves is being torn down. That very morning, the Swiss police had arrested Blatter's chief lieutenants from a hotel in Zurich, which would eventually lead to Blatter's resignation as FIFA President a few weeks later.

But none of the arrests of the morning or its consequences were talking points on the ground at Sion airport. Instead, the big deal here was a fleet of brand new, second-gen Audi Q7s parked in the hangar, ready to be test-driven through the Alps.

In the Q7's first major overhaul since it entered production a decade ago, Audi is aiming for an edgier and meaner look. The trapezoidal grille on the outgoing model has been traded in for a thicker rimmed hexagonal one. Flanking it are the air-intakes that are recognizably larger than before. And in the centre are the customary four interlocking rings.

History lesson: August Horch was the Steve Jobs of his era. A genius auto engineer who formerly worked with Karl Benz, he struck out on his own to create A. Horch & Co, an automobile manufacture, in 1899. But a decade after creating cars that were far superior to those made by Mercedes or Benz (they were separate entities at the time), Horch was booted out of his own company, by his board of directors, for product infringements.

He then formed Audi (a Latin translation of Horch, meaning "hark"), that began to make some spectacular cars too. By the Thirties, the two rival auto companies – Audi and Horch – had made peace, and combined forces with two German carmakers, DKW and Wanderer (hence the four rings) under the banner of the Auto Union. While →



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CORZETTI

Vermillion

the other three brands died natural deaths, the Volkswagen Group acquired Audi, which eventually rose to become one of the Big Three German luxury carmakers.

d As I carefully back out of the lovely lady's driveway, I'm amazed at how nimble and light-footed the Q7 feels. It's nearly as long and wide as the model it replaces, but by using aluminium to construct the body and chassis, Audi has shaved off a whopping 325kg. It's now much easier to manoeuvre through tight spaces at low speeds. To reduce the turning radius in situations like this, the front and rear wheels of the all-wheel drive Quattro beast turn in opposite directions. Once we're back on the main road, we relay our coordinates to the Audi team, only to discover we're on the correct route. Finally!

Turning onto the A9 a few minutes later, I've now got a fair bit of highway time to take in the luxe interiors. Undoubtedly, the new Q7 has had quite a few snazzy updates. The AC vents are one continuous panel that extends from the Virtual Cockpit Instrument Display (similar to that found in the new TT) behind the wheel to the other end of the dashboard – meaning the spacious cabin cools quickly. There's a seven-inch infotainment screen that pops up from the centre of the dashboard, while in the back are two Android tablets to customize passenger entertainment.

But unlike a luxury saloon that'll almost always be driven by a chauffeur, part of the thrill of owning an SUV is driving it yourself. In the Q7, you'll find that you're sitting lower than you'd expect, especially



THE LEATHER-CLAD GEAR SELECTOR FEELS INCREDIBLY GOOD AND RESEMBLES THE THRUST ON AN AIRCRAFT – AND THIS Q7 CRUISES LIKE ONE TOO



for a ride this large. And that subtle effort to create a sportscar vibe is further reinforced by the racecar-like responsive steering wheel.

The leather-clad gear selector feels incredibly good, resembling the thrust on an aircraft – and the Q7 cruises like one too. The pimped-up three-litre diesel engine is torquier and more powerful than before, which means a higher top speed and sharper acceleration. The handling, ride quality and overall feel are spot-on for an urban SUV: assertive, without being aggressive. The one factor that's a dealmaker for most buyers, though – even the well-heeled kind who'll put down this kind of money for their ride – is fuel consumption: The Q7 claims to deliver roughly 18km to the litre, and even if that figure is exaggerated by a third, it'll still be one of the most fuel-efficient luxury SUVs in the market today.

d An hour later, I'm winding my way up the tortuous Route de Verbier en route to the celebrated skiing destination. Idyllic chalets dot this chocolate-box village, and there are some magnificent views of the Alps – the near-perfect pyramid peak of Matterhorn and the legendary Mont Blanc included. As we finally pull into the uberslick W Verbier hotel, where the price of a suite can climb to \$10,000 a night, I see a few of my fellow auto journalists unsuccessfully suppressing all-out guffaws. But when asked whether I really managed to get lost despite the sat-nav, I shrug. "Not really. I just wanted to add some colour to my story," I say. So, now you know. Frankly, I can think of worse countries – and cars – to get lost in, and far bigger crimes than not listening attentively enough to the directions offered by a fine sat-nav system.



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1886
BENZ PATENT-MOTORWAGEN

This is a replica of the world's first automobile powered by an internal combustion engine. Manufactured in 1886, it produced less than a single hp of power. A few years later, a more refined version generated 2hp, and transported Karl Benz's wife Bertha (who incidentally bankrolled the project) and her two children on a 194km round trip between Manheim and Pforzheim – considered the world's first long-distance road journey.

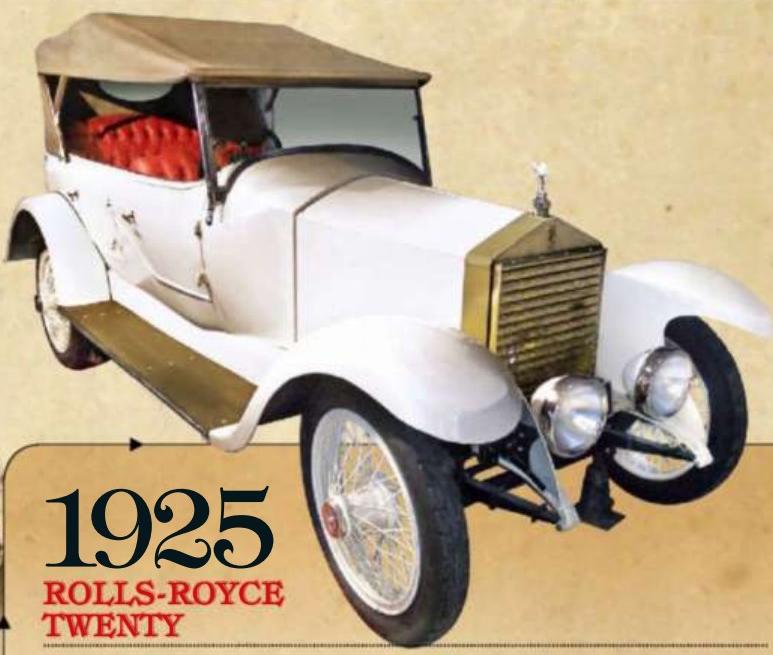
Dravidian Division

The late GD Naidu, one of India's preeminent inventors, owned one of the most significant private collections of classic cars. Now, over 60 of these motoring jewels help trace the evolution of the automobile at the new **Gedee Car Museum** in Coimbatore. Here are our favourites

1923

FORD MODEL T ROADSTER

The debt-ridden Detroit of today cuts a sorry figure, a far cry from its erstwhile avatar as one of America's richest cities in the early 20th century, when the world's biggest auto majors, including Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, established their headquarters there. Henry Ford created the Model T there, the world's first mass-produced car via a moving assembly line, in 1908. Each Model T took 93 minutes to manufacture, with one eventually rolling off the line every 24 seconds.



1925

ROLLS-ROYCE TWENTY

This was the tourer that Rolls-Royce hoped would put its posh customers in the driver's seat. RR designed a lightweight body frame (as opposed to the bulky ones of the Silver Ghost and Phantom) that would make it easier for owner-drivers to manoeuvre. With a four-gear transmission linked to massive 3.1-litre engine, the Twenty had a top speed of 97kph, making it one of the fastest production cars of its time.

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1925

HISPANO-SUIZA H6B

Marc Birkigt, one of Hispano-Suiza's chief designers, had developed a V12 for an aircraft. He decided to take half of that engine – a massive 6.5-litre powerhouse – and bolt it under the hood of this powerful ride. The ex-Maharaja of Mysore formerly owned this car, one of three soft-top limousines, with a body built by ultra-luxe French coach specialist Saoutchik, that made it to India. Drop the top, and it quickly converts into a stylish tourer.



1956

BMW ISETTA 250

Nicknamed the "bubble car", the odd egg-shaped Isetta borrowed its single-cylinder four-stroke 250cc engine from a BMW R25/3 motorcycle. It was one of the most fuel-efficient cars in the world, returning an average of 33kpl. Small wonder then that it became the highest-selling single-cylinder car ever.



1968

CITROËN DYANE

One of the most important design criteria for Citroen's iconic 2CV was that it be able to transport a carton of eggs across a field, without a single one breaking (the car was to be marketed mainly to French farmers). The mechanically identical Dyane replaced the 2CV, but was aesthetically upgraded and positioned as slightly more upmarket. As a result, it had headlights integrated into the body, hubcaps and a steering wheel that was less rudimentary than the one found in the 2CV. But the 2CV wasn't to be outdone – it eventually outlived the Dyane.



HERE'S TO THE EFFORTLESS.

STYLE FOR MEN BY

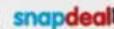
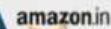
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TALES FROM THE ASS FESTIVAL: THE AGONY & THE ECSTASY

On one day each year, Coorg's Kuruba people converge in an ageless place to perform an ancient ceremony of binge drinking and screaming obscenities. For members of this Scheduled Tribe, does the **Kunde Habba** exist as escapism, elegy or enablement?

WRITTEN BY
DAVE BESSELING

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
CLARE ARNI

W

e'd been told to expect delays en route to the ancestral tree where the sacrifices would take place. Not by any traffic, but by marauding gangs of boozed-up tribals wielding spears and sticks, shouting and chanting obscenities, blocking roads and demanding tribute.

Some had cautioned the trip might be dangerous, others suggested abandoning the thing altogether for the sake of not being mobbed and killed, but the little information available was all too alluring: a couple thousand tribal men, converged from the corners of southern Coorg, surging around an ancient, animist totem, drunk off their nuts on cheap arrack, dressed in women's clothing. After which would commence the mass slaughter of chickens.

On the morning of the last Thursday in May, this is what we knew of the Kunde Habba, which translates into English, tidily, as the Ass Festival.

"But what kind of ass?" I demand. "Is it like worshipping a physical ass? Is it about getting some sweet village lady ass? Calling out the Great Unmeaning for acting like an ass? What's the story here?"

Karun Kumbera, 45, a Bengaluru-based architect originally from nearby Ammathi, shakes his head. He may have been born within this 4,000 sqkm district of verdant, fertile hills in the southwest corner of Karnataka, but despite his regular visits since leaving the region as a child, he's never heard of the Ass Festival either. As a member of the Kodava clan that's dominated the Coorg region for centuries, he feels a bit bashful about it, and has therefore agreed to wingman the mission.

Even before our van exits the electrified gates of our lodgings at the Apputa Coffee Estate, we're halted by a few four-foot-nothing characters materialized from the foliage, all very swervy for this time of morning. One guy in a clingy, faded salwar is beating a cheap plastic drum with a blackened chicken bone, another's wearing a Hallowe'en skeleton mask, leading a chant with "*Kunde, Kunde! (Ass! Ass!)*" while a smiley, yelpy man with facial features you'd expect to see in Papua New Guinea slurs back a lity verse. Then he gets down low, dancing like he's falling off the back of a pony. Or like he's about to peel off his lady dress and show Hallowe'en Mask here what a real ass festival is about.

Karun gets out of the van, his 6'2" frame towering over these morning drunkards, and learns they're from the Kuruba tribe, hunter-gatherers indigenous to this hilly greenbelt of southern India. After a series of laws beginning in the early Sixties effectively made the Kuruba trespassers on their own ancestral land, their numbers have reportedly halved to just over 30,000, now mostly labouring on the coffee plantations that have made Coorg, especially the Kodavas, rich.

What little information we could find described the Kunde Habba as an annual gathering of tribals to ceremonially "abuse their gods", which under modern circumstance had transmuted into workers cruising the coffee estates in costume, verbally abusing their bosses. Who wouldn't enjoy getting drunk and doing that? 







"Every year they go around the estates collecting money," explains Karun, as the extortionate trick-or-treaters nozzle down to the main road, one of Karun's ten-rupee notes in hand. They will continue their wobbly pilgrimage to a sacred ground at Devarapura, several kilometres away – or at least that's the plan. Smiley sex-dance guy doesn't look like he'll make it past lunchtime.

"And what were they chanting there?" I ask. "Does kunde really mean ass?"

"It does," confirms Karun, bending his beanstalk frame back into the van. "I couldn't understand every word from their dialect, but the chanting was all about making out with a girl..." He pauses, I raise my eyebrows, and Karun leans in: "Everything he said was about the genitals."

Thus, Karun's day of translating the freeform verse of the Ass Festival begins – with an attempt at modesty. But it doesn't last long. It can't. Not once we pull into the next village, coralled by a troupe of young, sinewy bodies painted all-over silver, sporting wigs of palm fronds and cassette tape, a couple of jackfruit helmets for variety, harassing shopkeeps and passers-by, chanting "Ass, ass! A dick up your ass! Ass, Ass! A dick up your ass!"

Or when another surly toll collector a few more towns in – an unshaven androgynous in a sari and a blonde bouffant wig – thrusts his bony loins at the van, shouting: "Kunde kunde! Fuck it, fuck it! Kunde, kunde! Shake it, let's fuck!"

And so it goes, us paying our way to the temple ten rupees at a time, snaking through sloping plantations of coffee country, where every so often there's a stray man, fallen behind his procession, quavering like the losing fighter in *Mortal Kombat*.

"Wow. Check that guy out," says Karun, pointing at a man in a

THE FAKE BOOBS ARE SUMPTUOUS AND ROUND. ONE GENTLEMAN HAS HIS EMERGENCY JUICEBOX OF ARRACK LODGED IN HIS CLEAVAGE

pair of tighty-whities and a halter top, struggling to keep pace with the uncontrollable weight of his head. "I don't think he's going to make it."

It is 11:23am.

Past a few more chains of human speedbreakers, we hit the last podunk roundabout before the sharp left leading to the Devarapura temple, where Karun's been told all the tribals must reach by 3pm, when "something" auspicious will occur.

Here march our first pods of pre-noon pissheads that've really put in the effort: The fake boobs are sumptuous and round, bras stuffed with mangoes and apples, and one crafty gentleman has his emergency juicebox of arrack lodged in his cleavage.

But little could we anticipate that with a mere turn to the right, there would be no time to prepare, no time to contemplate, no time to fathom a true singularity of nature.

Behold: It is The Drunkest Man In The World.

Haloed in a floppy-brimmed sunhat, clad only in boxer briefs ➤

2

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3

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STYLE FILE:

CASUAL AFFAIRS

In keeping with effortless high-street styles of the season, Splash unveils some of their key trends like Confluence, Cyber Tribe and Polaroid prints for men as part of their A/W 2015 Collection. With a focus on relaxed casuals and stylish semi-formals, this collection offers several co-ordinates like cotton joggers, hoodies, shirts, washed-out jeans, cyber printed Tees and more.

1. Acid washed distressed DNM
2. Cyber Tribe blue sleeveless knit terry hoodie
3. Midnight blue casual shirt with abstract prints
4. Brushed twill, casual checked shirt
5. Salmon pink, full-sleeved formal shirt with button down collars
6. Tailored khaki joggers available in multiple colours
7. Confluence Tee with a labyrinth print

Splash
FASHION

with a girly fringe home-sewn around the waist, he's tottering heavily, barking like Chewbacca with laryngitis. His pupils are rolled back, and then he's back-first into the grille of a lorry that's been kind enough to stop instead of splatter him. Our man turns to assess what has broken his fall, and there is a moment of frozen revelation, like Saul of Tarsus overcome by an epileptic holy light, after which comes the fit of a broken wind-up toy, then a fall into a hooch-coma on the side of the road.

Karun comes back from the shops with a couple bottles of water, much needed after our own plumbing of Johnnie Walker's deep red hole last night, and he stops to bask in all that is The Drunkest Man In The World.

"Wow," says Karun. "He's not going to make it."

T

he Kurubas have a problem with alcohol," says Nanda Mukatira, 55, a fifth-generation Kodava landowner, lounging the previous night on his whitewash-pillared verandah, wringing out our first bottle of whisky and opening another.

They call Coorg the Scotland of India, but I suspect neither the cool, wet climate nor the inborn love of field hockey has much to do with it.

"Nanda kept nudging my leg if he thought I wasn't keeping up," Karun will later recall, chuckling at his old family friend.

Karun still considers Coorg home turf, despite his father liquidating the family's agricultural land, just south of the Apputa estate where we're staying, in 1996. "I wanted to study architecture and urbanism," he'd said with a shrug. "What was I going to do with a coffee plantation?"

The Coorg of Karun's childhood is a land of enchanted groves, haunted bridges and roving spirits; a place where no one builds a house along the lines a necromancer determines is a path where ancestors take their nightly strolls, an alternate road-network for departed souls.

"You can always identify a ghost because their feet will be on backwards," explains Karun with a wink.

Before the British brought their magic beans to these hills in the 18th century, agriculturalists would tend mainly to rice paddies. But once most cultivatable land in Coorg was converted to grow coffee, coffee was where the money came from. To you: Coorg is where your Starbucks comes from.

Karun describes Nanda, a slight but solid man as "one of the golf-club Kodavas", part of the business class that contributed greatly to India's coffee exports, which topped \$818 million last year.

"Coorgs [Kodavas] only care about three things," declares Nanda, leading us in one of, well, a fair few verandah toasts, "Coffee, hockey and drinking."

Nanda's great-grandfather, awarded the title of Rao Bahadur – the Raj equivalent of an Order of the British Empire – headed the Mukatira clan as they transitioned from growing rice to the far more profitable caffeinate crop. As the family grew in size and stature, Nanda's grandfather built another home nearby, and as that family grew, more homes sprang up, including Nanda's verandahed manse.

Johnnie Walker reddening our cheeks, Karun listens as Nanda explains how the Kunde Habba "used to go from early morning to sunset, but these past few years they've been starting earlier and earlier." He figures the Kurubas have been on the gargle since earlier today, and "they'll drink all night."

And so will we. And we'll have to be poured into bed later too, but there's still a palpable vibe of Us and Them. Even mentioning that Nanda's daughter might consort with a Kuruba is met with a visible twitch. And Nanda can see that my next, obvious question is being muted by a guest's attempt at good manners.

"I'm not saying inter-marriage could never happen," says Nanda. "I'm just saying it's not done."

The Kodava tolerate the Kuruba's annual day of debauch – far preferable to a pitchforked peasants' revolt, no doubt – but Nanda's implication is that these people, "genetically different" with their "dark skin, wide noses and wiry hair," are starting to push their luck.

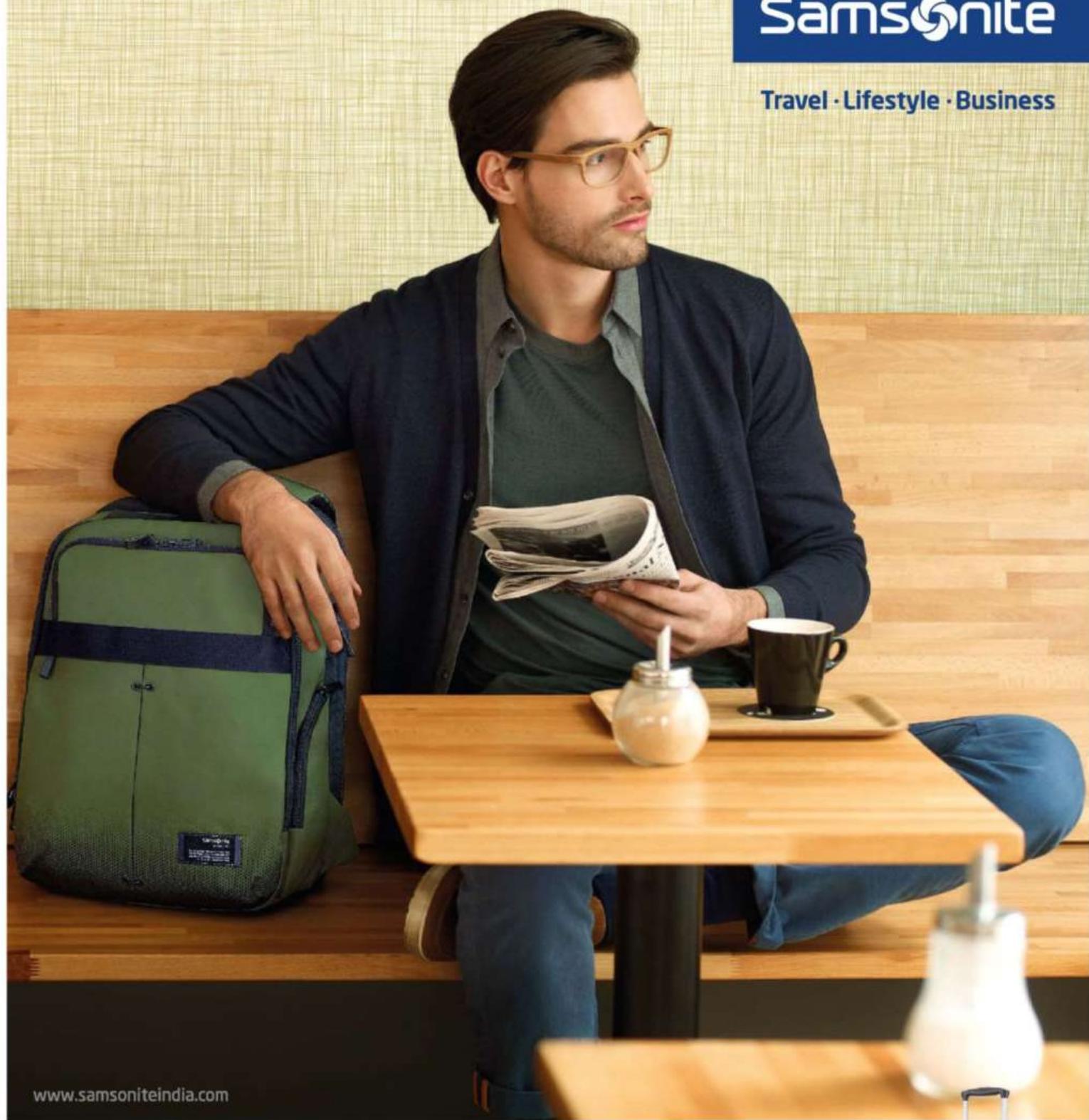
That the genetics of Indian tribes like the Kuruba can be traced to Africa, as can those indigenous to the Andaman Islands, is not a new idea, and there have been relatively conclusive DNA swabs to back this up. Where the casual racism comes in is with stories that say the Kurubas were African slaves brought here by the British to toil on the estates anyway, which makes for an easy absolution, a sense of superiority, and a convenient dehumanization. Which is not necessarily limited to the tribals. The less said about certain Kodava views on Muslims the better.

The Kodavas, after all, are a proud martial race who rebelled against Coorg's 18th century Musloccupations by Hyder Ali and his son, Tipu Sultan, the biggest pain in the East India Company's South Indian ass. Despite their small numbers – 70,000 in the region at latest count – Kodava-dominated Coorg remained



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an independent state on the Indian map until 1950, the same year Scheduled Tribes like the Kuruba were constitutionally granted equality rights and protections. But because of the forest protection acts in the Sixties, as well as national park and wildlife acts in the Seventies, many tribals have been forced off their lands, out of their culture and onto the estates.

Thanks to companies like Tata setting up operations here, workers' wages have been normalized to well above what's paid on other plantations from Kerala to Andhra, but if you give a Kuruba ten rupees, says Nanda, "he's going to go piss it up. If you give him 100 rupees, he's going to go piss it up."

"They have a four-day week," says Karun, "because on Sunday they get so sloshed they don't turn up on Monday."

Yet with persistent workforce shortages over recent years, Kodavas like Nanda need the Kurubas and their "small, muscular frames", their "jungle" instincts that propel them up the trunks of the silver oak trees to clip the canopy into the right balance of light and shade that coffee plants need to thrive. There's a story that one time, one of Nanda's guys showed up too drunk to work and Nanda gave him a tight slap, a couple pills and told him to go sleep it off and come back. He couldn't afford to fire him.

"Nanda, all these guys, they're babysitting," Karun tells me the next day. "The Kurubas don't have ambition, they are happy where they are."

And the Chinese can't drive. And black people steal. Indians smell like curry.

"These Kurubas are dwindling because they can't figure things out in today's reality," says Nanda, and he's right: they've never had a chance to experience a reality other than Coorg's self-perpetuating bubble fief, let alone any feasible alternative to chronic, atavistic alcoholism.

"The Kuruba," says Karun, "are just drinking themselves out of existence."

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, inebriates of all ages: Welcome to the Kunde Habba. It's almost 3pm, and over the last couple of hours, all available tramping, stamping,

dancing-in-trance space at the Devarapura temple grounds has been filled with over a thousand DIY-costumed men, all seething around the ancestral tree. It's a tight-packed coalition of several loose affiliates, united under heraldries as diverse as an ant's nest speared on the end of a forked stick, a Kingfisher Strong bottle with a daisy in it, and a three-foot blonde doll, held aloft with dress up, panties down, revellers reaching out to grab-ass this plastic caucasian child. *"Kunde, kunde! Ass, ass! Fuck that ass, fuck that ass!"*

Around the tree they go, about half a football pitch's worth of people spread to the rising hills on the north and west sides. The entire east side is the barrier of a Hindu temple, where a row of ladies in fine saris with oiled hair tied back, smelling of jasmine and higher class, have gathered comfortably on the sanctuary side of the wrought bars, like society ladies, fanning themselves, waiting for the Kentucky Derby to begin. Back outside, Three friends are so hammered they can only stay up by leaning on each other; only as a six-legged he-beast is forward locomotion possible, but they soldier on, as the ladies watch.

Karun figures the tree was "an ancient animist temple that became a holy place, where people then built shrines to different gods," so we won't get much clarity about that, any more than why this little dude is squatting beside me, squawking and poking at my balls, falling into James Brown-worthy splits and then just falling over.

The temple rep was no help in getting us into the historical cracks of the Ass Festival either. He kept telling us to come back in 15 minutes, every 15 minutes, for two hours. Instead, we gathered an oral history of spiritual creole. One elderly gentleman, sitting on the grounds' southern barrier wall in a pressed blue kurta and Nehru vest, explained, in Kannada, that the worshippers dress like women because "there is a woman god inside [the temple], Badrakali, so they think she likes woman things."

That, or getting langered and prancing about in women's clothing is simply always a great time.

The collated narrative from various attendees, some who'd come from as far as Mangalore, expands on the basics of what



IT'S SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, WHERE BEAUTY, SADNESS, LOVE AND CHAOS CO-EXIST, AS THEY ONLY CAN, IN THAT ENLIGHTENED STATE OF EXTREME INEBRIATION

we'd known coming in: that the male god Aiyappa was out on a hunt with the tribesmen, then he saw Badrakali in the forest, thought she had a nice ripe kunde, and abandoned the hunters to pursue his own lust. So every year, the Kuruba come here to cuss him out. And yet the most common utterance from Kunde participants doesn't refer to any history or mythology – nor are we regaled with tales of exploitation, servitude or indentured labour – but a simple axiom: "It's only Kunde for one day."

The big auspicious "something" at 3pm is two turbanned men prancing in horse costumes representing Aiyappa and Badrakali, accompanied by a shaman in a trance, cackling and screaming like he's in the throes of passing a gallstone the size of a mango pit. By now the surrounding hillsides are packed tight with hundreds of spectators, a few ice cream trucks and clumps of carnival balloons dotting the crowds.

And now, all hens must die.

Helpless birds are tossed above the crowd like wedding bouquets; wedding bouquets that sometimes break apart when two people think they've grabbed first and start pulling. Little old ladies short-step by with live chickens in their woven handbags,

on their way to the sacrificial ground behind the temple, where, I'm told, I'm not welcome.

Amid the bloody feathers on the ground, one of the few supervising cops looks to be transacting around a bird he's weighing in his fist, maybe for purchase, maybe for baksheesh, which distracts me from a worshipper who's peeled off from the roil and come over, bending down to touch Karun's feet.

The man works on Nanda's cousin's estate, but that doesn't mean he doesn't know who Karun is, a well-connected Kodava, and even at that degree of separation, even today, the hierarchy must be maintained. Nanda later calls us to see if we survived, and when Karun tells him about the incident, Nanda says that's one reason he can't attend the Kunde. He's enough of a bigshot that his mere presence would tilt the whole thing off its whorl, you see. Or he's afraid he'd get ripped apart like one of these expiatory dirtybirds.

If the worker hadn't snapped us out of our Kunde trance, we might not have spotted the unassuming, elderly couple, most definitely tribal, dressed in simple, traditional gowns, dancing a ways away from the collective tension of the swirling herd. The moves are unmistakably sexual, but instead of taking someone roughly up the dumper, this guy's more suave, implying with a hip swivel and a smile, "Hey girl, we've got compatible body parts, let's get some drinks and take a nice cool dip in the gene pool."

Ding. The Kunde must have begun as a fertility festival, perhaps the various tribes coming together to, you know, keep the soil of the family trees nutrient-rich, keep the crops rotated, and have a good time doing it. Why would it have to be more complicated than that? Thousands of years ago, mating rituals were as essential as they are today, always helped along with a jar or twelve, and everyone, everywhere, needs a bit of ass every once in a while.

And in this quiet revelation, a harbinger of greater truths, truths found out in the headland of the mind, where beauty, sadness, love and chaos co-exist, as they only can, in that enlightened state of extreme inebriation:

I don't know how he's made it. I have no idea who or what divine force has led him to this last station on his Via Dolorosa. He staggers left, right, back; stops, calibrates, and howls out all of humanity's sufferings past, right back to the time before there were coffee plantations, a time before there were gods. Then he fumbles, falling over as if his feet were on backwards.

But he's soon risen again, eyes turned ever-inward, a man, alone, just for one day, on the edge of ecstasy.

Behold: It is The Drunkest Man In The World.
It is a Kunde Miracle. ☺



AMERICAN W[★]MAN

You've given her top marks for her roles in the two ABCD films, invited her back as your favourite mentor on reality dance

TV, and if you keep treating her so well, India, you'll be seeing a whole lot more of

LAUREN GOTTLIEB

Photographed by

PRASAD NAIK

Styled by

VASUNDHARA SHARMA

BODYSUIT BY
BORDELLE



BODYSUIT BY
BORDELLE. KNICKERS
BY **I.D. SARRIERI**.
BRACELET BY
AQUAMARINE.
HEELS BY **CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN**



After making her name on the biggest dance contest on American television, then going on to train some of Hollywood's biggest stars in the art of the two-step, Lauren Gottlieb looked set to live the California dream. But then she did something rather unexpected. She packed up and moved to India.

"I just walked into my parents' bedroom at 5am," says the 27-year-old, "and told them I was going to India. They told me to go back to bed."

Sure, there are plenty of foreign women operating in Bollywood, but they usually have Indian heritage. Or half. A Subcontinental surname, at least. Lauren Gottlieb may be pure videshi, but she's really really good at the one thing all Indians love – dancing.

The 5am announcement in Arizona came after director Remo D'Souza saw Lauren on *So You Think You Can Dance* and invited her to Mumbai to star in his first *ABCD* film.

"I got a real quick intuition," she says. "It was just crystal clear."

And if matching hip swivels with the likes of Varun Dhawan and Shahid Kapoor defines making the right call, you could say she has.

"What a thing," she says, recalling the serendipitous late-night email that got her here. It may have been unconventional, but it paid off. And "that was the idea, *na?*" laughs Lauren, her voice lilting somewhere between San Fernando Valley and Versova.

And in an odd return to roots a couple continents from home, Lauren's back on dance-contest TV, this time as a mentor on *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa*, where a short while ago she appeared as a contestant.

"There's just such a special energy here," she says, "my heart is in two places, but I really feel at home in India."

It's not so much full circle as conjoined spiral. Which, really, should also be the name of a new dance move. ☺

LINGERIE BY
L'AGENT BY AGENT PROVOCATEUR.
BODY CHAIN BY
AQUAMARINE



LINGERIE BY
BORDELLE. HEELS
BY CHRISTIAN
LOUBOUTIN

ASSISTANT
STYLIST: DESIREE
FERNANDES
HAIR: SHEFALI
SHETTY/BBLUNT
MAKE-UP:
MARCELO/TOABH
MANAGEMENT
PRODUCTION:
VASUNDHARA
SHARMA
LOCATION:
THE BIG DOOR,
MUMBAI

SHOPPING'S BIGGEST PARTY

The biggest night in fashion is back on September 2 at Mumbai's Palladium Mall. The best way to navigate the one-night shopping extravaganza? Plan ahead with this handy list of all the exciting offers at your favourite stores.

ACCESSORIZE

A 10 per cent discount, cupcakes and candy, as well as a social media contest with gifts worth ₹5,000 await you.

AFTERSHOCK LONDON

Get your cameras out and strike a pose with your friends in an Aftershock London ensemble. Share it with your friends on Facebook and Instagram to get a 10 per cent discount. Also get a ₹1,000 gift voucher when you shop over ₹20,000.

AM:PM

Nothing beats a 25 per cent discount on the whole store!

AMBER & SHIRRIN

Head to the special FNO rack and take your pick from a variety of merchandise all priced at ₹5,000!

ARMANI JEANS

Travel in comfort with an Armani Jeans Travel Pillow, free with every purchase!

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BROOKS BROTHERS

The '60s. Urban time travel. Fedoras. Pearls. Malts. If you don't know what we have in mind, we'd recommend that you drop by.

BURBERRY

Pick up a My Burberry perfume and get it embellished with your initials while you shop.

CHEEMO

Walk out with a tote or day bag when you spend more than ₹5,000 or ₹10,000.

CHANEL

Get complimentary make-up applications when you visit Chanel during FNO.

CLINIQUE

Step in and discover the perfect look for your personality and style. Choose from six looks and post a "winkie" on Instagram tagging @vogueindia and #Cliniqueindia. Participate in a raffle for a surprise treat and go home with an instant photo in a Clinique + FNO photo sleeve.

DUNE

Add a snazzy hat to your wardrobe when you visit Dune. Snap a "shoefie" with quirky London props or pick up a gift voucher while you indulge in cake pops in Union Jack colours.

ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA

Walk in for an exclusive preview of the ZZegna Autumn/Winter 2015-2016 capsule collection. If you're the most dapper gentleman around, you could win a pair of ZZegna sneakers.

ETHOS SUMMIT

Buy that watch you've been eyeing at a 15 per cent discount on select brands.

FCUK

With a complimentary bag to carry all your goodies when you spend ₹6,999, you don't need a better reason to shop at FCUK.

FOODHALL

Whet your appetite with a special party menu and also learn how to recreate it with a special cooking class. Stock up on groceries and get ₹300 off on a purchase of ₹2,500 and ₹750 off on a purchase of ₹5,000.

FOREST ESSENTIALS

Get fabulous freebies with every buy and get the exclusive loyalty card at a discounted rate of ₹3,000, while winning sample offers in a special lottery.

FURLA

Shop from August 22 to September 2 at the Furla store to be eligible to win a two-night complimentary stay at the Suryagarh Resort in Jaisalmer. The lucky winner will be announced at FNO.

GOSSIP

Let your inner designer take over by designing your own shoe at the exclusive FNO counter at Gossip. Everyone who visits the store gets a Privilege Loyalty Card, while the best footwear design gets a special prize.

G-STAR RAW

On every purchase, get a G-Star Raw India T-shirt.

GUCCI

Savour a glass of champagne as you

browse through the Italian luxury brand's latest offerings.

HACKETT LONDON

Get a 15 per cent discount on selected stock.

HEEL & BUCKLE

Play a game of 7 Up and 7 Down to win gift vouchers and get 10 per cent off on your next purchase. Make sure to stop by the photo booth on your way out.

HIDESIGN

Visit Hidesign to get a flat 20 per cent discount on the entire collection along with a wallet free with every purchase. If that's not enough, you could also win leather bands or coin pouches when you shop, with a glass of wine in hand.

JACK AND JONES

Challenge your friends to a round of Fight Night Champions or Flappy Bird on the Xbox Kinect, where the winner not only gets bragging rights, but also a prize from the store.

JEAN CLAUDE BIGUINE

Take a break from shopping and pamper yourself with complimentary nail art, a 30 per cent discount on Acrygel nail extensions, 50 per cent off on a dry manicure or pedicure, or get a quick makeover with smokey eyes and a nude lip at just ₹750.

JIMMY CHOO

Browse through your favourite shoes as you savour the Choo Cookies inspired by the brand's latest collection.

KENNETH COLE

Buttery popcorn and a ₹1,000 PVR movie voucher on every purchase—need we say more?

KIEHL'S

While you get your personalised skincare consultation, take in the New York City-themed food and beverages accompanied by live music. Walk out with a complimentary tote bag and three product samples.

LANCÔME

Travel to France with a French-themed evening. While you treat yourself to a complimentary touch-up service following a shade test, spoil yourself with a glass of

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sparkling wine from Chandon and nibble on candyfloss and La Folie macarons and cupcakes. Also, take home a Lancôme scarf when you shop at the store.

LA FOLIE PATISSERIE

With a 15 per cent discount voucher on a minimum purchase of ₹550, treating yourself to your favourite desserts has never been sweeter.

LA PRAIRIE

Treat yourself to free samples along with a 10 per cent discount at La Prairie. Also indulge in their signature ritual, the Art of Perfection, which includes a consultation and a special massage technique when you spend ₹25,000.

LE15 PATISSERIE

Visit your favourite dessert shop and get 15 per cent off discount cards.

L'OCCITANE

Snack on macarons as you search for the skincare products most suited for you.

MAC

Transform your look with the help of a MAC artist. Experiment with 22 shades of MAC's Matte Lip collection to get the perfect pout.

MICHAEL KORS

Enter in a sweepstake contest while you shop with a glass of champagne.

PAUL SMITH

Spin the wheel and win exciting prizes and offers at the English fashion brand.

PUNJAB GRILL

Sweeten your meal with a complimentary dessert at Punjab Grill.

RITU KUMAR

Spend ₹15,000 and get a gift voucher worth

₹1,500, while a total of ₹25,000 gets you a voucher of ₹2,500.

ROYCE'

Carry your chocolates and make-up in style with the special *Vogue Royce'* box.

SATYA PAUL

Enter in the Gauri Khan Saree Twitter contest to win a special scarf.

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Embrace your bohemian side with a free flower crown while a hairstylist braids your hair with feathers. Snack on Icing on Top cupcakes and take a selfie with a quirky Instagram frame. Make sure to mention @SteveMaddenIndia and use #BohoChic.

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Start the party early at Superdry with a cocktail bar and a DJ booth in-store.

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Happy Hours have never been happier. Head to TGIF from 5pm till midnight to get special deals on your favourite drinks.

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Play games to win free gifts and vouchers as you snack on cupcakes. Look out for the *Vogue Loves* tag while you get a makeover or a consultation.

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Get a 15 per cent discount on select stock at The Collective.

THOMAS PINK

We host a game for two, played by you know who. No gestures, no noises, just a vanilla view, which can win you goodies too.

TOMMY HILFIGER

Take your shopping experience to the next level with champagne and cupcakes.

TOMMY KIDS

Treat your little ones to cupcakes as they pick out their clothes, while you enjoy a glass of bubbly.

TUMI

Leave the store with a limited edition 40th anniversary leather passport cover when you spend ₹50,000 and above.

VERO MODA

Check-in at Vero Moda on Facebook and win a free gift. Plus, every shopper gets a gift voucher that is valid on their next purchase.

VILLEROY & BOCH

Indulge your sweet tooth at the special Chocolate Bar at Villeroy & Boch.





From left:
Peter d'Ascoli, Parikshit
Luthra, Jeet Thayil &
Manak Singh
WARDROBE BY GUCCI



THE GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

We should have known. You can't get four gentlemen full of Chivas 12 and not expect the conversation to eventually veer to the fairer sex. Or maybe it's because the boys were feeling a bit hipper than usual, a bit more self-confident, all kitted out in Gucci with no women around to impress. Whatever the reason, when you get a group including designer and textile expert **Peter d'Ascoli**, Booker-shortlisted author **Jeet Thayil**, brewmaster business scion **Manak Singh** and CNN-IBN anchor **Parikshit Luthra** on one sectional couch, there's going to be lots more being lobbed around than a bunch of sexy sari talk.

Though that bit was pretty interesting

Photographed by **ADIL HASAN** Interviewed by **DAVE BESSELING**

In association with

GUCCI

What's your take on jugaad?

MANAK SINGH: Indians love jugaad. Imagine you have a meeting with a banker and he's like sorry, there's no way we can fund this project. There'll always be that one [other] guy you'll meet and he'll be like, "What are you saying, boss! Ho jayega!"

[Laughter]

PETER D'ASCOLI: I agree, but I would use this word that I learned from a *New York Times* journalist – "the workaround". Usually it ends up with some tape, with some glue, a patch here, a patch there but in the end, it's working.

For example?

D'ASCOLI: Making lassi in the washing machine.
[Laughs]

SINGH: You'll see real jugaad if you travel around India. And when you go to the smaller cities.

PARIKSHIT LUTHRA: I think I've seen, somewhere in UP, these carts run by generators. And they're using them as cars, to transport and pick up people.

JEET THAYIL: Even how people have used a gas cylinder to run a car.

LUTHRA: With the CNG?

SINGH: That's crazy when you see a CNG cylinder at the back of a car.

THAYIL: I remember, once, in Banaras, this kid

had made a boat out of Bisleri bottles that he'd cut in half. And he actually made a perfectly serviceable boat. Fantastic.

LUTHRA: That's called "use at your own risk".

Well yeah, we've seen what happens when we're talking about jugaad when it comes to country liquor...

SINGH: Yes, but some people are already making vodka-infused gol gappas! Which is actually pretty good.

[Laughs]

THAYIL: That's some Punjabi right there.

SINGH: See, he's in Delhi at the moment so now he's going to tell everyone he's a Delhiite.

THAYIL: Are you kidding me! It's been five years – how long does it take to be a Delhiite?!

SINGH: Right. And what time was this interview supposed to start? [Laughs]

THAYIL: [Laughs] See, I'm Delhi all the way.

Look, I've known Jeet for a good while and he's never been late until today. Maybe he's finally become a real Delhi boy.

THAYIL: It's just the way it goes.

D'ASCOLI: Well, I often used to say, back when I moved from New York and opened my office in Delhi, that I was like Agamemnon, who burned his boats on the beaches of Troy. In the last few



PETER D'ASCOLI

years, I've realized the gravity of this, that I'm here for the long haul.

SINGH: Did he practise this before coming here? Did he get these questions beforehand?
[Laughter]

D'ASCOLI: What scares me about that is the realization that I'm an immigrant, that I'm far from home. I'm raising my daughter in India, much the same way my grandparents did when they came from Italy to the US... Now India is my home. I find that scary but I also enjoy it.

SINGH: So many Indians move away and try to make a home in different parts of the world, but in the process they end up alienating people who are actually from that country.

THAYIL: Because they are so clique-ish.

SINGH: Yeah, they just try to stay in their own group and hold on so tight to this old heritage we have, but I think people like Peter, because he made that effort – the fact that he's open to interacting with local culture and tradition makes this journey so much easier for him, and to consider raising kids in this sort of environment...

LUTHRA: But were you worried? When you were changing countries?

D'ASCOLI: You know the expression "fools rush in where angels fear to tread"? Maybe it's a lack of intelligence.

SINGH: I'd like to call it optimism.

D'ASCOLI: Optimism, yes, yes. [Laughs] But you know, once you've lived long enough, or you've travelled enough, you realize that there are hundreds of millions of people living in situations different from ours. The guys in my office who work for me have never heard of Jimi Hendrix. They've never heard of Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer. For me, that's just unbelievable. But why is that?

THAYIL: More shocking about Hendrix.

[Laughter]

D'ASCOLI: On the other hand, I don't know what it's like to go into the woods and gather wood

for the fire. And to watch out for leopards – or, I mean, there's thousands of things that they know that I don't know. So there's this idea that there are different realities, and the news, for example, only feeds us a very small sliver of reality.

LUTHRA: At the end of the day, the news is a business, and there are people who have invested money to run that business. You're paying the salaries, you're paying for your rights, airtime, equipment, you're paying debt at 13 per cent. So I don't know who to really blame. I can't have this self-righteous position and point my fingers at a news group saying that you're only promoting what can really sell and you're not presenting reality.

D'ASCOLI: No, and in fact, I wouldn't blame anyone. I just think that it's incumbent upon us to understand that there's a limit and to not fall into the trap of following "the news" as if this is the only thing that's happening or the only thing that matters.

LUTHRA: It's kind of sad that [even though] there's so much that needs to be reported in a country like India, we're all sitting in our little bubble of Delhi, or Bombay or wherever, but we have people, you know, who're facing a lot more. My cousin is a general surgeon at Safdarjung Hospital, and from the stories I hear from him on a daily basis, I think our entire news channel could run on just what's happening in the hospital.

THAYIL: Well, an added end to the Agamemnon story. You know the only reason he burned his boats is because he had a ship builder on board.

SINGH: Peter still has his US citizenship. That's his way out.
[Laughter]

Well, for you Jeet, you've travelled all over the place like a madman for the last year or two. Do you feel Delhi is home now?

THAYIL: Of course, it's home because this is where I come in between all the travels. This is where



PARIKSHIT LUTHRA





IDENTITY RE-FASHIONED

Under Alessandro Michele's creative eye, Gucci takes a refreshing new turn with its Autumn/Winter 2015-16 Collection - **Urban Romanticism**.

Romanticism. Breaking away from the brand's past, this collection has a new language led by individualism

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GUCCI





my guitar is, where my suitcases and my clothes and my shoes are. You come home and you turn the show off, you're off stage. I mean, there are few places in the world that I'd feel comfortable going out in my slippers.

D'ASCOLI: Actually, you know, this is where being a firangi has its perks.

SINGH: Yeah you can get away with it.

[Peter laughs]

SINGH: It's crazy that we're sitting here. This place used to be F Bar, and I remember there was an incident where a friend of mine was turned away at the door, because she was wearing a sari. At that time we were too young to make a noise, but I really felt shocked that in your own country, you're turning someone away for wearing traditional Indian dress. How can you not allow that?

THAYIL: And besides, saris are the sexiest.

D'ASCOLI: Not only that. I have been very aware for many years that a sari is a terrible weapon. A woman who knows how to wear a sari knows...

SINGH: How to destroy you.

D'ASCOLI: How to reveal, how to hide in such a way!

SINGH: I think we know why Peter burned those boats on the beach, it was the saris. I don't think it was anything else! [Laughs]

THAYIL: And who can blame him?!

[Laughter]

THAYIL: There is this whole thing that the sari does with the pallu, right? Which is that "accidentally on purpose" fall off the shoulder.

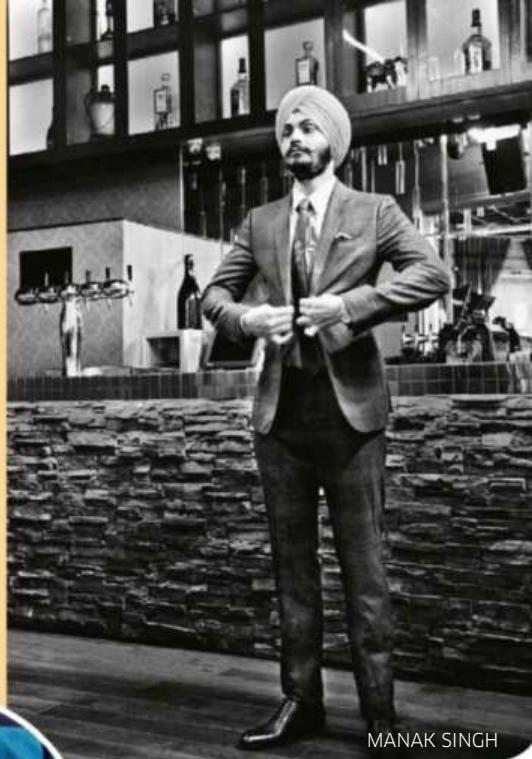
LUTHRA: And then initially we're embarrassed, because we've been caught looking.

[Laughter]

D'ASCOLI: See, that's sexy.

SINGH: And you're supposed

"The sari shows the midriff, the belly. Things normally only a lover will see. It's very intimate and very private. It's a weapon"



MANAK SINGH

to not, you know, go, "Oh here, let me help you with that."

LUTHRA: Nowadays – in my college days as well – women were very fond of saris, because people realize that when you are Indian, the way your body type is, where you come from, I guess the sari suits you much more. I mean, of course you like beautiful women, but when you see a woman in a sari, that appeals to you much more. And what about your mother's saris?

SINGH: Ooooh... We don't want to go there...
[Laughter]

THAYIL: But it is a very familiar thing to do, to associate the sari with being a child. And there is a comfort there, there is a familiarity, there is a kind of security and then there is this sort of a whole new element of sexuality. It's irresistible. You can't resist that. You're fucked.

[Laughter]

D'ASCOLI: My mother never wore a sari.

That's why he's able to be so very objective.

THAYIL: And also, the thing with a sari is it doesn't show ankles. It might show a bit of ankle, but it doesn't show knees or thighs like in a dress. What does it show, though? Let's think about what it shows.

LUTHRA: The back.

SINGH: The neck.

THAYIL: The midriff. The belly. These are things normally only a lover will see. It's very intimate and very private. You're right, Peter. It's a weapon.

SINGH: I think the moral of the story is, cheers to the sari.

[Glasses clink]

THAYIL: And Indian women.

LUTHRA: Cheers to the sari and Indian women, sticking to their culture. Cheers to them. And thanks to Chivas Regal. They made us talk.

[Laughs]

THAYIL: They made us indiscreet. We may regret this. ☺





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A photograph showing a close-up of a person's legs and feet. They are wearing light-colored, sheer trousers and clear, jeweled pointed-toe pumps. They are seated in a red velvet armchair with prominent tufting. The background is dark.

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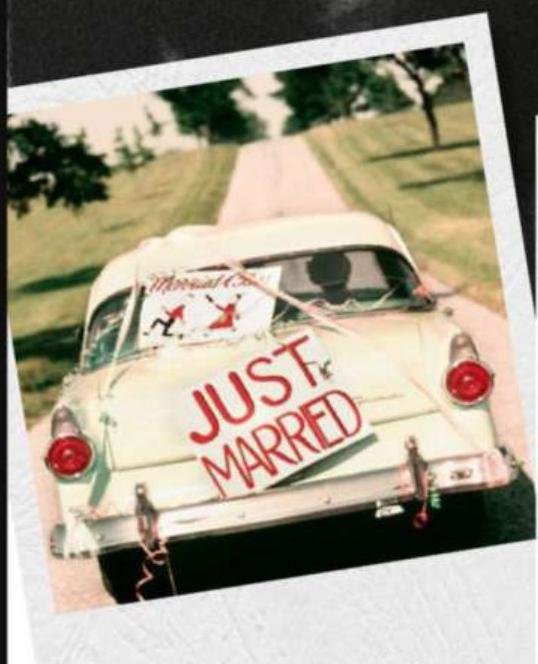
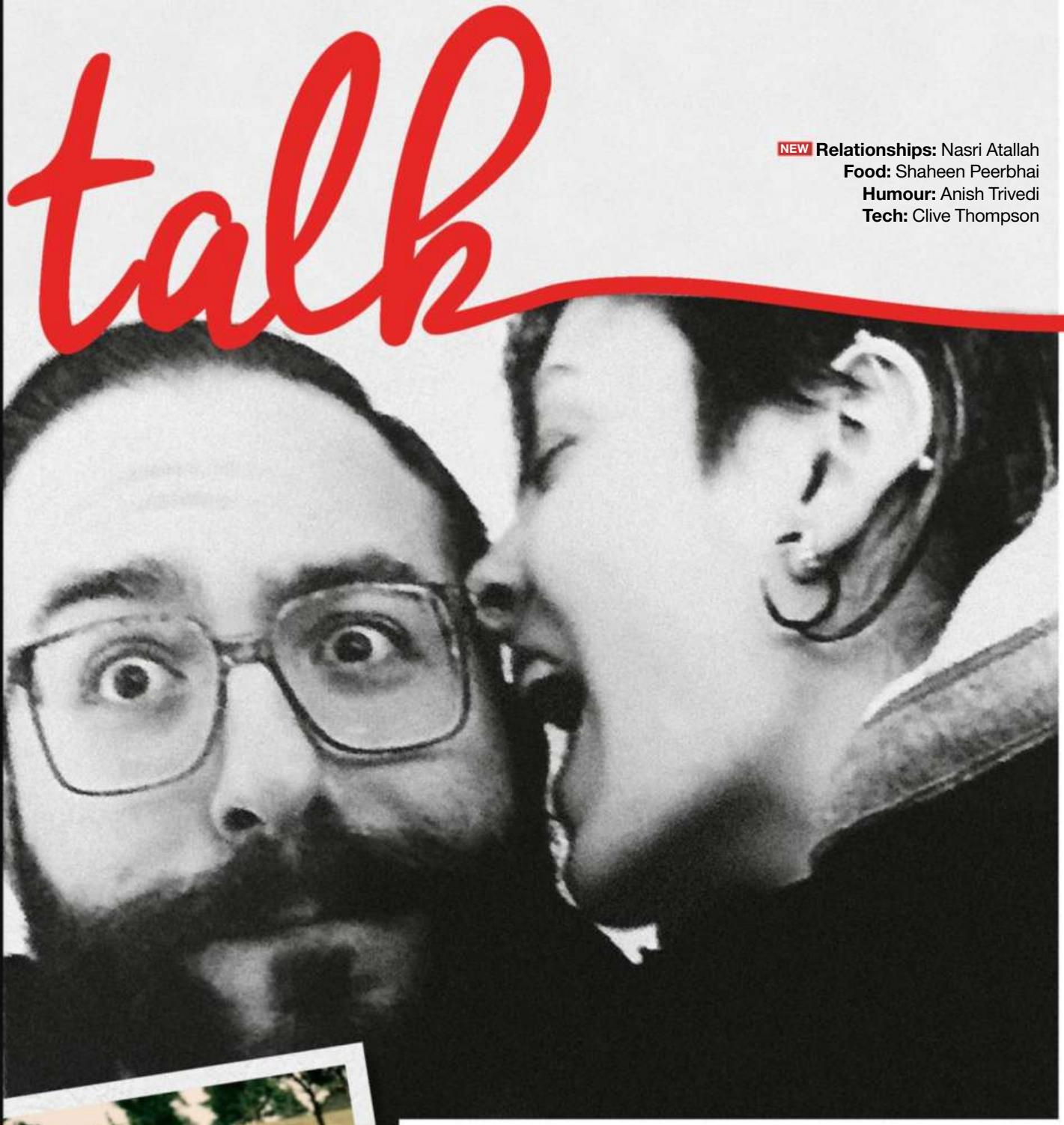
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191 TYING THE KNOT

BY NASRI ATALLAH

MUSINGS ON THE
MODERN MARRIAGE

By the time you read this, I will be married. This isn't a milestone I find particularly terrifying. Nour – my girlfriend – and I have been together for two years, get along swimmingly, and already make great life partners. This isn't gloating. This is true, plus it's pretty handy, given we're committing to a lifetime together. Added advantage: getting married means people can stop referring to us as each other's "fiancés", undoubtedly the ugliest word the English language has ever borrowed from another. →



THINGS GOT SO OVERWHELMING AT ONE POINT THAT I COULDN'T KEEP TRACK OF EVERYTHING I WAS DOING, AND I ACTUALLY SENT MY GIRLFRIEND A GOOGLE CALENDAR INVITE TO DISCUSS SOMETHING ABOUT THE WEDDING

Enagement itself is such an odd, mildly annoying state of being. You're essentially still just a couple and nothing has changed. Yet – despite yourself – everything has. People ask more questions, things have suddenly gotten "serious", even though they've always been serious to you. And, worst of all, you have to plan your wedding.

Doing this, however small the shindig, adds a lot of stress to lives that are already a cacophony of information and decision-making, compounded by a world that seems to be – for all intents and purposes – falling apart. So deciding what colour the tablecloths are going to be at a party in four months' time isn't something anyone should really spend time doing.

In my case, things got so overwhelming at one point that I couldn't keep track of everything I was doing, and I actually sent my girlfriend a Google Calendar invite to discuss something about the wedding. It was around this low point (seriously, a calendar invite) that we were headed to Florence to a childhood friend's wedding.



Our Middle East Airlines flight from Beirut to Rome is predictably chaotic. Lebanese travellers see assigned seating as more of a suggestion than a requirement,

and negotiations over seating rights go on during the whole flight. The instant we land every seatbelt buckle in the plane comes undone with a loud clang and everyone stands up pointlessly. An exhausted flight attendant screams down the intercom: "We just landed. We're ten minutes away from the gate. If you could wait three hours to get here, you can sit the hell down for five more minutes!"

Things outside the plane aren't far more organized. This is Italy after all, and everyone around the Mediterranean is essentially the same. However, this being Italy, everyone is suddenly very well-dressed. The Carabinieri uniforms make me question my sexuality for a minute.

On our first day in Rome we head out for some tourism. About 17 seconds later we realize it's 35 degrees outside and the city is full of Americans wielding selfie sticks. We quickly retreat to our hotel and the quiet of its pool, devoid of both. We only venture out once to grab a Negroni (or seven) in Pigneto, an area I found by googling "Hipster Rome". Think Brooklyn-meets-Lisbon but, again, better dressed.

The following day we take the high-speed train to Florence. A leathery man thrusts his Billionaire Couture jeans tag in my face as he places his crocodile skin briefcase next to our tattered bags. We smell his cologne for the next hour-and-a-half. It lingers with us during the cab ride to the hotel. After some freshening up we head to the Villa Di Maiano, where the wedding dinner is underway.

It's the kind of international mess we love. Our friends getting married are Syrian-

Brazilian and Lebanese-Chinese-Dutch from Curaçao. And they both live in Dubai. They are ridiculously, absurdly attractive yet also aggressively lovely, which makes them impossible to hate – try as one might. As for the event itself, it is as close to a fairy tale as I'll ever get, I think. And it fits these two perfectly. I try to imagine Nour and I being at the centre of this, and I burst out laughing. We'd look like trained monkeys dressed up to entertain at a carnival. But I guess that's what a wedding – and, at the risk of sounding melodramatic, life – is all about: always doing something that is entirely sincere.

Under the fireworks and general aura of Instagram-ready perfection around us, 3,000 kilometres away from our noisy lives and well into a fifth round of Jäger shots, Nour and I disconnect from everything. Our days filled with multiple email accounts, multiple social media accounts, multiple responsibilities, identities. We now take a moment to do nothing and enjoy what is happening around us. And I think it allows us to enjoy what we have coming our way too.



If everything goes to plan, by the time you read this we'll have had a small ceremony in Nour's parents' backyard in a village in south Lebanon with a few friends. There will have been some drinking, some awkward dancing, some embarrassing speeches. And it will have looked and felt like us.

But what a wedding looks like isn't important, really. It's what a marriage looks like that prepares you for the often difficult reality of life together. And the reason I'm not terrified going into this thing is that I know my marriage started two years ago, and things have never been better.

Nasri Atallah is a British-Lebanese author. He's not sure where he lives anymore, and likes to cry himself to sleep while watching romantic comedies on short-haul flights. Follow him on Twitter @NasriAtallah



MAN on the MOVE

Whether it's a relaxed outfit for work or a stylish ensemble to wear to the gym, Being Human's latest Autumn/Winter 2015-2016 collection has you covered



All of us wish that we could trade in our uncomfortable attire for something that is comfy yet stylish. Helping you out with this is Being Human, the clothing line with a heart. Interpreting

the Athleisure trend, the brand presents its new collection that combines the comfort of gym wear with the aesthetics of streetwear. Versatile and trendy, take your pick from track pants and jeans to jackets and hoodies

that can easily be worn to the office as well as to the gym. Setting a new precedent in personal style, the Athleisure line by Being Human blurs sartorial demarcations to present clothing for all occasions.

194 GRUB STREET

BY SHAHEEN PEERBHAI

10 BOOKS ON FOOD EVERY MAN MUST READ

"WHENEVER I HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO, I ROAST A CHICKEN."

—JEFFREY STEINGARTEN

In restaurant kitchens, space is at a premium and in every kitchen I've ever worked in there's been just enough room for a dozen or so books. They have to be incredibly useful and special to find a place there, making this one of my preferred spots to discover excellent new reads.

Some of these books have found their way to the top shelf of my bookcase – which my rather tall husband uses most. Here are some of my favourites, ranging from classics to contemporary publications. A few are recipe books, while others are a compendium of fascinating food science, culture and history. *Bon appetit!*

THE MAN WHO ATE EVERYTHING

This is a collection of lawyer-turned-food writer Jeffrey Steingarten's columns. Each piece is an informative and entertaining account of his quest to discover a new culinary technique or challenge a particular norm. My personal picks include his essays on the search for the best *choucroute* (a meatfest of sausages and charcuterie) in Alsace and a column on the history of the granita.

TARTINE BREAD

I've noticed that when men get down to baking, they usually want to learn to make breads before cakes. *Tartine Bread* is the only book you'll ever need to make crusty, airy sourdough loaves. It may seem text-heavy and intimidating in the beginning, but once you're past that, you'll be rewarded with superlative loaves.

THE FLAVOUR THESAURUS

Imagine a colour wheel but for flavour pairings. *The Flavour Thesaurus* also includes conversational recipes, and ideas from around the world about how to get creative in the kitchen. It's a perfect primer to understanding why certain flavours work well together, like strawberry-tomato, white chocolate-olive and apricot-lavender. Ideal for the amateur cook who wants to get more experimental with his recipes.

THE COMPLETE NOSE TO TAIL

Fergus Henderson of the iconic St. John restaurant in



London is the man who brought offal back into fashion. Strongly advocating the use of all edible parts of an animal, Henderson's created dishes patrons still swear by, more than 20 years after St. John's doors opened. I bought his book the summer I interned at St. John Bread and Wine. The writing is eloquent and sharp, with an unmistakable British wit, the photography intelligent and dramatic.

SCIENCE IN THE KITCHEN AND THE ART OF EATING WELL

This is a translation of Pellegrino Artusi's *La Scienza In Cucina E L'Arte Di Mangiar Bene*, first published in Italy in 1891. The book is packed with recipes and advice on Italian food and culture, and is known to have a place in every Italian household, where it's simply referred to as *Artusi*. Reading this is like having "a favourite uncle, who happens to be a knowledgeable cook" rattling off recipes at the dinner table. The recipes aren't detailed to the same level of modern-day cookbooks, but rather written in a chatty style, requiring a basic level of prior cooking knowledge.

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF TASTE

Written by Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin – the man who has a cheese named after him and who famously stated "Tell me what you eat and I shall tell you what you are" – in 1825, *The Physiology Of Taste* is a culinary classic. It isn't just about food – like when he recommends using the finest olive oil for trout – but a way of living. "To invite a person to your house is to take charge of his happiness as long as he is beneath your roof," he writes.

REAL FAST FOOD

Nigel Slater proves that cooking good food needn't take more than 30 minutes. The format of easy-to-make recipes interspersed with notes and guidelines about ingredients works well, without being preachy. Perfect to help you rustle up a quick weeknight dinner.

PLenty

Plenty is a book full of colourful, inventive and modern vegetarian recipes by Yotam Ottolenghi. Tracking down some of the obscure ingredients can be challenging, but it's worth the trouble.

INDIA

Pushpesh Pant's *India* is the definitive book on the diverse cuisines that make up the culinary landscape of the country, with some excellent fool-proof recipes.

ON FOOD AND COOKING

McGee's *On Food And Cooking* is the encyclopaedia for any questions about the science and history of food. It helps you identify fresh eggs, tells you why cheesecakes crack, details the first recipes for ice cream and shares the wonders of *kefir*. It's a hefty tome, the gastronomic equivalent of those *How Things Work* books you loved as a kid.

Shaheen Peerbhai trained at Le Cordon Bleu and blogs at *The Purple Foodie*



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THE GREAT INDIAN SURGERY

BY ANISH TRIVEDI

GETTING OPERATED ON HERE IS NOTHING LIKE YOU SEE ON TV

"You're going in for a nose job," says the almost middle-aged lady to my right. I tell her this is not wholly accurate, that I am going to have surgery to fix various things that are wrong inside my nose, not the way it is shaped. She is not listening. But since she is now showing me the latest part of her anatomy to have benefitted from the surgeon's scalpel, neither am I.

I have not elected to have myself hospitalized. I have even considered the options offered by alternative medicine. The first person I meet is an acupuncturist. It won't hurt a bit he tells me, waving what appears to be the lance with which St George slew the dragon. Avoiding the knife for a week only to be pierced with needles for the rest of my life makes no sense to me. In the next room a woman screams. I leave.

My next visit is to a homeopath. As a child, I always liked homeopaths. They handed out little sugar balls soaked in syrup, far tastier than the bitter pills forced down young throats by paediatricians. This is clearly the solution I have been seeking, I say to myself, smiling as I sit. The conversation begins with my being asked about my life. I launch into a particularly endearing tale of my first words, baby steps and a pony. But this is not what the young woman wants to hear. In the next few minutes, I am told what will change going forward.

My mornings will no longer begin with either tea or coffee. My nights will no longer include wine, whisky or cigars. No onions, no garlic. Which takes care of Indian and Italian meals, my two favourite foods. I tell her I'd rather live well than live longer. And steal a bottle of sugar balls on the way out.

With no recourse in sight, I call my friendly neighbourhood doctor, who sends me packing to a surgeon, who sends me packing for tests. I ask why I need to have my heart checked if all he's going to be doing is scraping my nostrils. He tells me to stop asking irrelevant questions. And adds a couple of more tests to the list. It may have nothing to do with my nose, but I can now rest assured that thirty-odd years of debauchery have had no effect on my liver or my lungs.

Brought up on a diet of doctor shows, the ones that win Emmys, I am expecting my admittance to the hospital to resemble an episode of *ER*. Lots of pretty young things checking my pulse and yelling for stuff "stat" as they wheel the gurney through brightly lit corridors. Instead I am unceremoniously dropped into a wheelchair and rolled the short distance to my room. In anticipation of said pretty young things, I have acquired a new wardrobe. Pyjamas. Real men, with the possible exception of Hugh Hefner, do not own pyjamas. Pyjamas are what you wear in case of a fire. But I figure I would look even sillier in the backless gown I have been offered. So pyjamas it is.

Also brought up on a diet of men's

magazines whose content focused largely on glossy photographs and letters to the editor describing the fantasies of other horny young lads, I have long harboured visions of what would happen in the still of the night when a nurse came to check my temperature. More experienced men have detailed, graphically, the tender care I could expect. I can now say with some certainty that there will never be a letter to *Penthouse* written from a Mumbai hospital. Efficient and energetic as our nurses are, there's not one of them that will feature in a fantasy. Stick to reruns of *Scrubs*.

But one does hold my hand as I'm being put under anaesthesia. It will be okay, she says, brightly. Four hours of surgery later, as I'm being wheeled out, I realize what worried me the most: Not the scalpel that might slip.

Not the defibrillator that didn't charge. If there's one thing that's guaranteed to kill you in an Indian hospital, it's the bloody Yo Yo Honey Singh they play while they're prepping you. I tried stabbing my eardrums out, but they had my arms strapped down.

Here's the other thing you will encounter in an Indian hospital: The Indian wife. After I was back in my bed, mine sat through the evening texting while I struggled to take the Saran Wrap off

my meal tray. Took off for a drink right after since she'd been through such a traumatic day. Told the nurse who asked that there was no need for anyone to stay the night with me. "He's fine," she said to a friend on the phone, walking out the door. "It was only a little nose job."

MORE EXPERIENCED MEN HAVE DETAILED, GRAPHICALLY, THE TENDER CARE I COULD EXPECT. I CAN NOW SAY WITH SOME CERTAINTY THAT THERE WILL NEVER BE A LETTER TO PENTHOUSE WRITTEN FROM A MUMBAI HOSPITAL

Anish Trivedi is the author of *Call Me Dan*

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to them, if that's your thing. The brand houses an extremely well-curated inventory of sharp threads that are stylish but classic, polished yet comfortable and beautifully tailored, yet low-key. Book an appointment and spoil yourself with the finest blends and weaves and the most luxurious fabrics - pure cashmeres, rich silks and satins blended with wool. Prestige The Man Store also houses some of the world's best brands, like Ermengildo Zegna, Reda, Scabal, Loro Piana, the Raymond's Chairman Collection and much more.



BESPOKE - LIKE A BOSS

'I don't want that perfect suit made from scratch' - said no man ever! But it's easy to get it wrong. Here are the things you need to know so you don't become the next sucker with bespoke buyer's remorse. Take note

- Forget black, go for a solid navy instead - it's the most versatile suit colour a man can own. You can wear it to the office, a wedding, to an evening event, just the jacket as a blazer with jeans, or just the trousers with another jacket.
- When it comes to fabric, look out for 100s, 110s, 120s, 130s, 140s, 150s and 160s. The higher the number, the thinner the fibres and the smoother and silkier the cloth feels.
- Try a shawl collar lapel instead of the typical peak lapel. Velvet? Why not!
- Pocket square? Of course, it looks dapper. And while you're at it, go for a trendy bow tie too.
- Try to have as few pleats as possible on your trousers; they're so yesterday!
- Make sure the buttons are horn, the lapels are hand-stitched, there is felt under the collar and there is a canvas interlining.
- Nipped-in waist? Definitely.
- Don't ask for belt loops - no bespoke suit has them.

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THE POWER OF BOREDOM

BY CLIVE THOMPSON

HOW DULL ACTIVITIES CAN SPARK CREATIVE THINKING



"I'm dying of boredom," complains the young wife, Yelena, in Chekhov's 1897 play *Uncle Vanya*. "I don't know what to do." Of course, if Yelena were around today, we know how she'd alleviate her boredom: She'd pull out her smartphone and find something diverting, like BuzzFeed or Twitter or Candy Crush. If you have a planet's worth of entertainment in your pocket, it's easy to stave off ennui.

Unless it turns out ennui is good for us. What if boredom is a meaningful experience – one that propels us to states of deeper thoughtfulness or creativity?

That's the conclusion of two fascinating recent studies. In one, researchers asked a group of subjects to do something boring, like copying out numbers from a phone book, and then take tests of creative thinking, such as devising uses for a pair of cups. The result? Bored subjects came up with more ideas than a non-bored control group, and their ideas were often more creative. In a second study, subjects who took an "associative thought" word test came up with more answers when they'd been forced to watch a dull screensaver.

Boredom might spark creativity because a restless mind hungers for stimulation. Maybe traversing an expanse of tedium creates a sort of cognitive forward motion. "Boredom becomes a seeking state," says Texas A&M University psychologist Heather Lench. "What you're doing now is not satisfying. So you're seeking, you're engaged." A bored mind moves into a "daydreaming" state, says Sandi Mann, the psychologist at the University of Central Lancashire who ran the experiment with the cups. Parents will tell you that kids with "nothing to do" will eventually invent some weird, fun game to play – with a cardboard box, a light switch, whatever. Philosophers have

intuited this for centuries; Kierkegaard described boredom as a prequel to creation: "The gods were bored; therefore they created human beings."

The problem, the psychologists worry, is that these days we don't wrestle with these slow moments. We eliminate them. "We try to extinguish every moment of boredom in our lives with mobile devices," Mann says. This might relieve us temporarily, but it shuts down the deeper thinking that can come from staring down the doldrums. Noodling on your phone is "like eating junk food," she says.

So here's an idea: Instead of always fleeing boredom, lean into it. Sometimes, anyway. Mann has found she gets some of her best thinking done when she's commuting by car and therefore can't self-distract with her phone. When novelists talk about using Freedom, the software that shuts down one's internet

connection, they often say it's about avoiding distraction. But I suspect it's also about enforcing a level of boredom in their day – useful, productive monotony.

And there is, of course, bad boredom. The good type motivates you to see what can come of it: "fructifying boredom," as the philosopher Bertrand Russell called it. The bad type, in contrast, tires you, makes you feel like you can't be bothered to do anything. (It has a name too: lethargic boredom.)

A crucial part of our modern task, then, is learning to assess these different flavours of ennui – to distinguish the useful kind from the stultifying. (Glancing at your phone in an idle moment isn't always, or even often, a bad thing.) Boredom, it turns out, may be super-interesting.

Clive Thompson is a regular contributor to Wired



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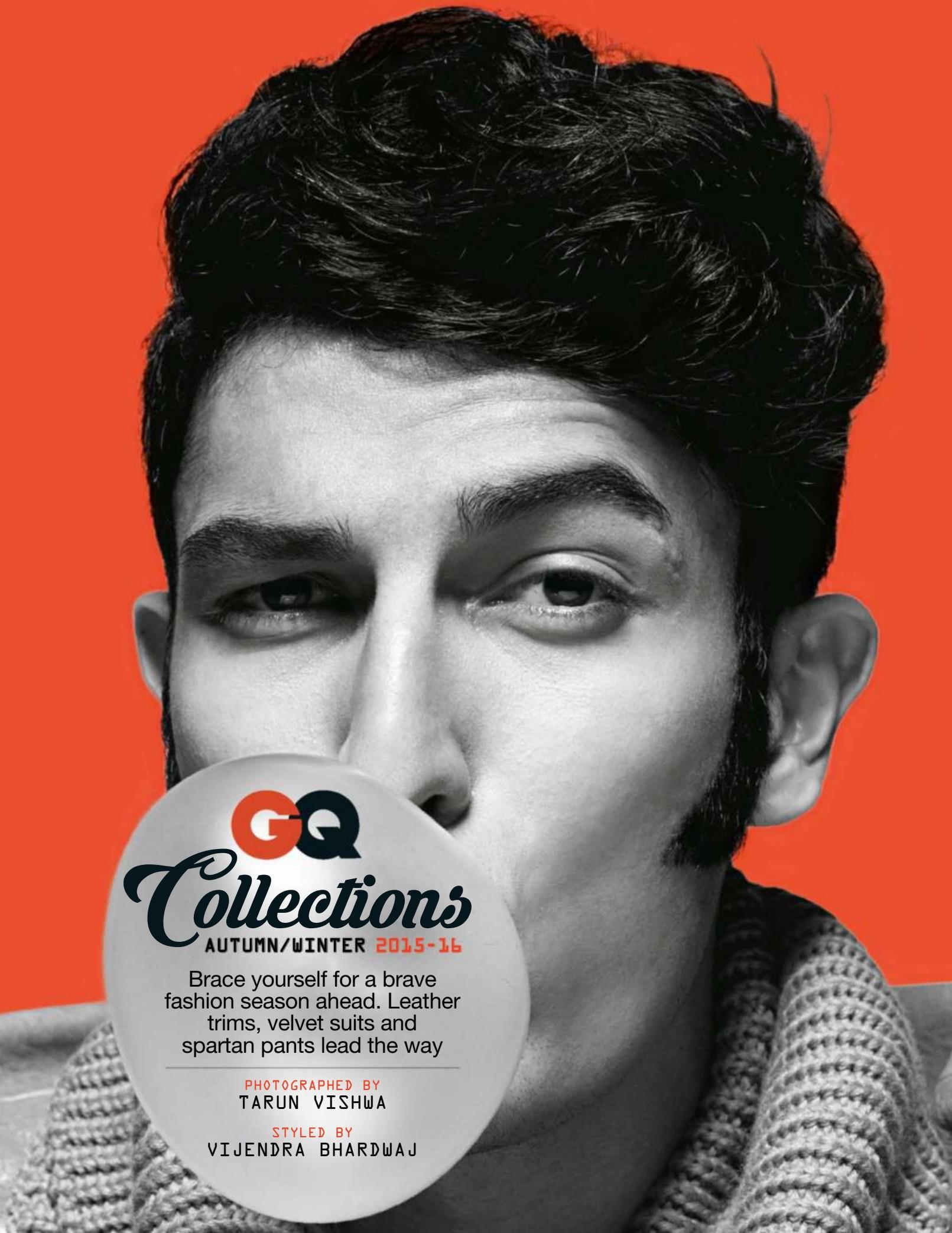
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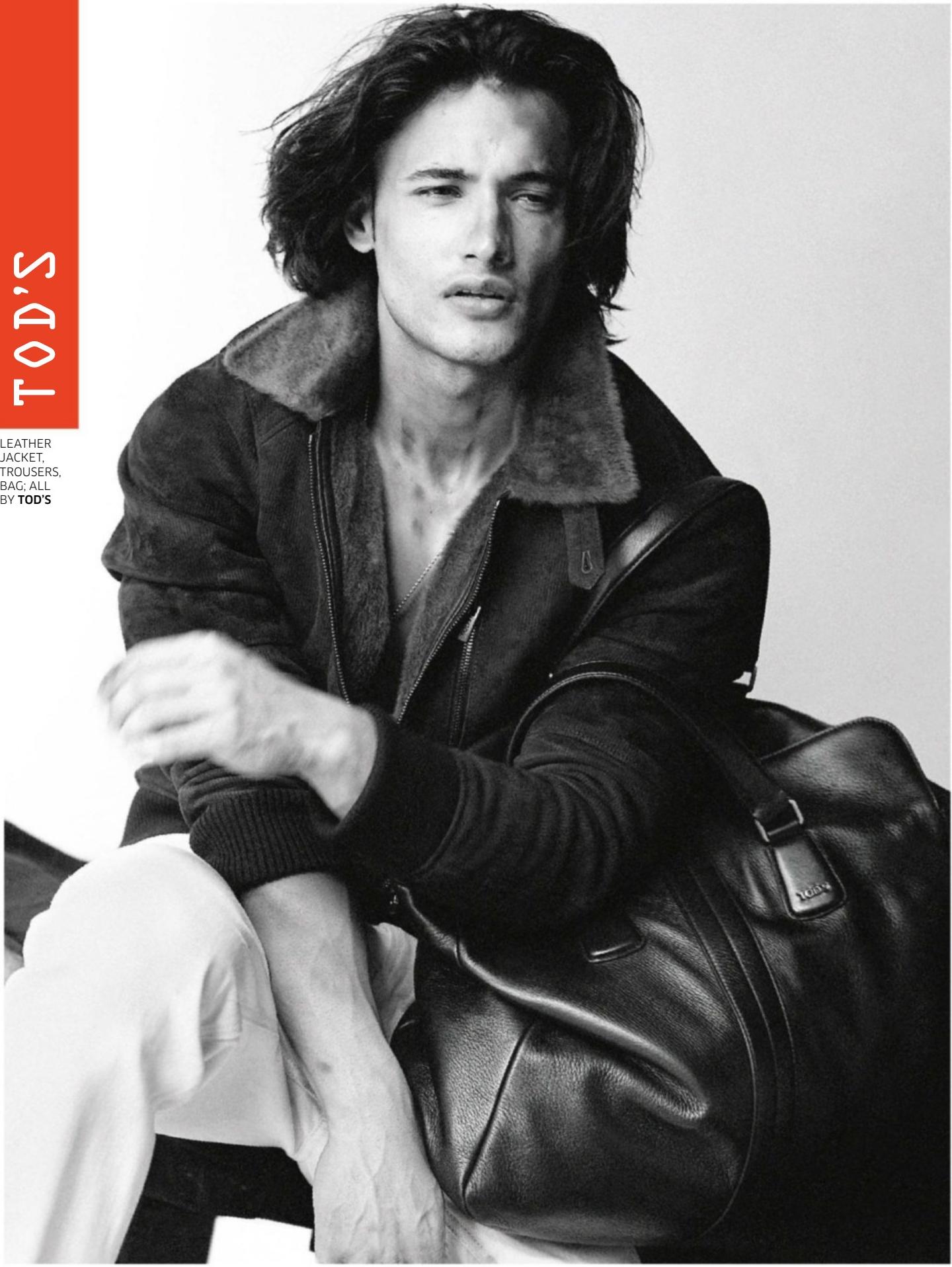
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TOD'S

LEATHER
JACKET,
TROUSERS,
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PRINT SHIRT,
GRAPHIC
PRINT
JUMPER,
TURTLENECK
JUMPER,
T-SHIRT,
JACKET,
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HERMÈS

JACKET,
TURTLENECK
JUMPER,
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TIE, WATCH;
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HOMME
ON HER:
DOUBLE-
BREASTED
TWEED SUIT
BY DIOR

GUCCI

SUIT, SHIRT,
WATCH; ALL
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Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro

"Both De Niro and Scorsese have the utmost respect for one another," says photographer Phillip Caruso. "Though De Niro will often defer to Scorsese's consultations when they're filming. He's very respectful of that; he will sit and rehearse the scene until he nails it. If it wasn't for De Niro I would never have met Scorsese or been involved in *Casino*. I got introduced to Scorsese after working with De Niro on *Backdraft*. De Niro came in for the first three weeks of filming, and in the second week, he asked me to move to New York so I could come and work for him. I declined his offer at first, but he kept calling and, ultimately, once I'd finished the film I flew out to the set of *Cape Fear* and met up with De Niro, who later introduced me to Scorsese. I became De Niro's personal photographer and ended up on 22 different sets with him."

GAMBLER'S CHOICE

Goodfellas? Fuggedaboutit. Martin Scorsese's true masterpiece is **Casino**, his bleak, complex portrayal of Seventies' Vegas mobsters. Here, to mark the film's 20th anniversary, GQ presents an exclusive behind-the-scenes portfolio by **Phillip Caruso** – Robert De Niro's personal photographer – and the stories behind the pictures

Written by **Jonathan Heaf**
Photographed by **Phillip Caruso**



HOUSE RULES: On the set of Sam Rothstein's home, De Niro (*right*), in character as the casino's money man, takes direction from Scorsese

“IN THE CASINO, the cardinal rule is TO KEEP THEM PLAYING and to keep them coming back. The longer they play, the more they lose, and in the end,

WE GET IT ALL.”

—ROBERT DE NIRO as Sam “Ace” Rothstein

When was the last time you saw Martin Scorsese’s *Goodfellas*? Actually, don’t tell me. Unless you’re a student, on a particularly lame stag do, or currently serving time at Her Majesty’s pleasure, no one actually sits down with the intention of watching Marty’s mobster masterpiece a second time around.

No, after the first memorable screening, any repeat viewings are always opportunistic. And probably a little stoned. Second, third or 40th time a man hears the immortal line, “Never rat on your friends and always keep your mouth shut”, he will be alone, slumped on the sofa in a crumpled suit, half cut on single malt and with one hand wantonly scrawling through an ex-girlfriend’s Instagram feed.

We’ve all been there. You stumble in, crack open one last Asahi Super Dry and turn on the box. *Goodfellas* is on! Sure, it’s halfway through, but you watch it anyway – as you always do and always will – basking your drunken yet undernourished masculinity in all its bravura performances and masterly direction.

You tap your foot to the soundtrack – the Shangri-Las, Al Jolson, Dean Martin – and smile knowingly at the main players. Joe Pesci as the hyena-like psychopath with a hair trigger; Robert De Niro as the terrifyingly cold hard-man mobster and Ray Liotta as the yarn’s unravelling, soon-to-be-cocaine-addled, chopper-watching narrator, Henry Hill.

It’s such an exquisite, violent, entertaining romp – gangster fantasy at its most

[REDACTED]

gratuitous. As Hill says: “For as long as I can remember I always wanted to be a gangster. To me that was better than being president of the United States.” *Goodfellas* made you want to be a goodfella.

The film was released in 1990. Five years later, however, Scorsese made *Casino*. Many critics believed it would be simply *Goodfellas* with a brassier budget, a white-collar gangster blow-out in the Nevada sands, a film that would seem flimsy when cast in the shadow of the earlier movie’s blue-collar, gritty authenticity.

Many would still agree. To this day, if you ask any number of Scorsese fans which of the director’s gangster flicks is the best, many will say the story of Hill’s rapid rise and ultimate dethroning. They are, of course, all wrong.

Casino is Scorsese’s most overlooked, most underloved masterpiece. Better than *Mean Streets*. Way better than *Gangs Of New York*. And, yes, better than *Goodfellas*. It’s the brains of the outfit. When it comes to the portrayal of made men, black books, consiglieri and mob muscle, *Casino* is without doubt this director’s greatest and most sophisticated achievement. If *Goodfellas* is a working-class version of *The Godfather*, then *Casino* is the *Godfather Part II*, a companion piece with a darker, deeper heart.

In *Goodfellas*, the mobsters were rarely more than two-dimensional hoodlums,

whacking their enemies and fumbling drug deals like two-bit crooks. There’s an absurdity to the violence in *Goodfellas* – something that Joe Pesci brought beautifully to his role as one of the “Wet Bandits” in *Home Alone*, released the same year. Sure, as a viewer you’re hugely entertained – peering into the intimate world of these almost-cartoonish mobsters – and there’s no doubt it’s a wild ride, a slalom of blood, guts and gunpowder, but you can’t help but feel Scorsese is almost too enamoured with all the mobster mythology, the criminal folklore. *Casino* is richer and ultimately more complex, because it is bleaker. More human. And with far greater scope. This isn’t a story about local mobsters. This is a movie about the excess and corruption of America itself.

Screenwriter and author Nicholas Pileggi (his book *Wiseguy: Life In A Mafia Family* was adapted into *Goodfellas*) had wanted to write about Las Vegas for years, but just couldn’t find a way in. “Suddenly a trial took place,” explains Pileggi, “of skimming by the Chicago-Milwaukee wise guys. These men and the Teamster pension fund had put up all the money for the casinos in Vegas and the whole thing was laid out in court. Here I suddenly found a great story about the mob, their connections in the Teamster pension fund, buying a casino with a frontman, putting a brilliant gambler in charge of it, and the whole thing, which should have been magical but it collapsed. I jumped on it.” ➔



Sharon Stone

"I remember this scene very well," says Caruso. "It was done just after Stone had been playing at the craps table and she threw all the chips into the air. She looked absolutely stunning in her dress. I saw her a few years ago and she still looked fantastic."

Throughout the film Stone had about 40 different outfit changes, and each one was handmade for her. I think the only one that was bought off the rail was the chinchilla coat that she's wearing in this photo. Everything else was custom-made."



GOLD LEAF: Stone and De Niro on location at Park Paseo, Las Vegas, used by the film as the Vegas Valley Country Club



Sharon Stone and Robert De Niro

"It's a cliché to say, but some actors can turn their character on and off at their will. De Niro and Stone were particularly impressive at this. There's one scene where Sharon is speaking in confidence with Nicky Santoro [Joe Pesci] and De Niro comes in the room and they have this massive fight.

The scene was so physical. De Niro starts off throwing Stone's clothes out, before throwing her around the room. But Sharon was great, she just started beating on De Niro, and Marty just sat there going, "Wow!" When they were filming it the camera just followed the two of them around the house, as beforehand they had a pretty good idea where it was going to go, but then all of a sudden it just exploded. The only breaks De Niro and Stone took while shooting that scene were when they were panting and had to take off their dressing gowns to cool down."

CONCRETE JUNGLE Woods in character as Rothstein's love rival Lester Diamond, on the streets of Las Vegas



James Woods

"When Scorsese broke out the script he must have thought, 'Who would be good to play Lester Diamond?' And James just fitted into the role perfectly. He's the sort of actor where there is absolutely no pretence. He didn't demand anything before doing the scene - he literally just came in and was like, 'Right, I'm here to do a job, let's get on with it.' It helped that he already had a good friendship with De Niro, as watching the two of them meet again [after *Once Upon A Time In America*], it was as though they'd seen one another the week before. It rekindled a friendship that had been established before."

A documentary made in 2006, *Casino: The Story*, recounts the making of the film. "Nick [Pileggi] pitched the idea of Las Vegas in the Seventies to the Universal brass," recalls Scorsese. "They got very excited. The way I can remember it, when I did *Last Temptation Of Christ* at Universal, that led to a number of projects. I then went off and did *Age Of Innocence*, so I owed a film to Universal. Having such a good time with Nick Pileggi on *Goodfellas*, I thought it would be interesting to revisit the genre but take it to another level, a national level, with Las Vegas representing America and in some ways representing Hollywood."

A deal was struck with Pileggi to write and research the book while Scorsese simultaneously shot the movie. The real-life story – the Chicago Outfit mobsters that hooked Pileggi in the first place – was, however, a tough nut to crack. After all, many of the men the writer-director duo intended to depict had little desire to spill the beans on their criminal pasts.

De Niro's character Sam "Ace" Rothstein was based on Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal, a man who made a name for himself in sports betting, first in his hometown of Chicago then later in Miami. The world of gambling being what it is, Rosenthal got to know some fairly unsavoury types and ended up working with the mob, specifically the Chicago Outfit. Despite a poor choice of work colleagues, however, Rosenthal was seemingly untouchable. Although arrested numerous times he only saw one conviction – for bribery associated with a college basketball game in 1963. Although both sharp and ambitious, Rosenthal was also a masterfully cautious tactician – traits that would lead to huge rewards both for him and his bosses.

On secretly taking over the Stardust, Fremont, Hacienda and Marina casinos in Vegas during the Seventies, Rosenthal pioneered two innovations: running an illegal sports book from within a casino, thus making the Stardust one of the world's leading centres for sports gambling, and allowing female blackjack dealers on the floor, an idea that in one year doubled the Stardust's income. (Rosenthal married Geri McGee in 1969. She would be renamed Ginger in the movie and played superbly by Sharon Stone.)

"A lot of these people were not cooperative," Pileggi admits, "including the Ace Rothstein character. What did he need with a book? He was very wealthy, very smart and he didn't need his ego played around with in such a way. But then word got out that Marty and me were going to do a casino movie next and Marty had mentioned that Bob [De Niro] would play one of the parts, and somehow that got in *Variety*. This guy [Rosenthal] is in Florida and I get a call from him asking, 'Are you guys going to turn this into a movie?'"

With Scorsese and De Niro rumoured to be attached, doors started opening and the former mobsters keeping schtum started

singing. Pileggi remembers Rosenthal in particular being blown away by the prospect of De Niro playing him on the big screen. Pileggi recalls the conversation: "Robert De Niro," he told me, "is the greatest actor of his generation." Well, I'm not going to argue with him. Then he said, "Can I meet Robert De Niro?" Of course you can meet him! And I realized this was an opening. I called Marty and he told Bob De Niro and he got on a plane and he went down to see this guy 'Ace' in Florida, and they really hit it off. And when the movie was announced it suddenly became easy to get information for the book. And people who had slammed doors in my face, hung up and got their lawyers to call me, they were calling me up to meet Bob De Niro, Sharon Stone, Joe Pesci and Martin Scorsese."

When shooting began in September 1994, Pileggi was still writing. Scorsese and Pileggi would sit for hours figuring out the key scenes so filming could begin prior to the book being finished. If you go back to read the book, the narrative seems fairly

With Scorsese and De Niro rumoured to be attached, **THE MOBSTERS** started singing

chronological, but what Scorsese did was use the story arc as a spine and then spin off with numerous refined asides.

The use of voice-overs was once again crucial, although rather than using just one – such as in *Goodfellas* – three or four were employed, layering the story with wise-guy colloquialisms, all genuine conversations recorded by Pileggi. This gave not only more authenticity but also a depth of character the likes of which is absent from *Goodfellas*.

In the movie, we follow De Niro's character, a small-time gangster drafted by the mob to rub the Mafia-owned Tangiers casino in the Seventies, as he cuts and schemes his way through Vegas, a criminal Wild West where the risks were as big as the rewards. A Western is exactly what *Casino* is, in fact, with De Niro as both sheriff (kicking out the cheaters) and outlaw (breaking their bones while he's at it). It's a world of gluttony – for sex, for money, for control – far more so than the fairly parochial criminality represented in *Goodfellas*.

Joe Pesci (playing Nicky Santoro, the part based on Anthony "The Ant" Spilotro, a close

friend of Rosenthal) is back and, as ever, is one meatball short of a traditional Italian-American Sunday lunch. His unpredictability still verges on the psychopathic – he hardly breaks stride between the two movies. Again, here in *Casino*, although still De Niro's sidekick, he is a loose cannon who might cause the whole house of cards to come crashing down.

And then, there's Ginger, played by Sharon Stone, who at the time was white hot in Hollywood, relatively fresh from her successes and controversies in movies such as *Basic Instinct*, released three years earlier. If you could aim one criticism at Scorsese's work as a whole it's that strong, complex female characters are few and far between. Stone's turn as the savage, plotting, unhinged junkie wife upends the entire movie. She injects a human quality, a reflection of our fallibility, which is absent from *Goodfellas*. She takes the role of a mobster wife – a part no doubt shaped and informed by the magnetism and belligerence of Michelle Pfeiffer in *Scarface* – and heaps on Ginger's cracked emotional instability and paranoia, all fuelled by alcohol and drugs.

Aside from all the ditch digging and "trips to Florida", it is the lustful tussle and power-brokering that goes on between Stone and De Niro, De Niro and Pesci that glues viewers to the screen. Here, De Niro's foppish manager is overwhelmed, and indeed undermined, by the passion and fury of Ginger, a woman who, as movie critic David Thomson recalls, "won't be overlooked."

If the women in *Goodfellas* always come secondary – either long-suffering gangster WAGs with six screaming kids, or fly-by-night "goomahs", a congo-line of stand-up perms – then *Casino* is something else. Stone's performances gives *Casino* if not its soul then certainly its pounding, bleeding heart. The real revelation? That Ginger is badder, madder, harder and tougher than Ace ever could be. She is more gangster than he, or any goodfella for that matter, ever was.

After Nick Pileggi had finished on the movie set he had to rush back to New York to finish the book. "I had to get the book out before the movie – and that's hard!" As he typed frantically and Marty continued to shoot, Pileggi already knew Scorsese and he were close to illuminating a time when the Mafia in America was all-powerful – halcyon days for the mob that would never be seen again. The movie marks this seminal, criminal moment in history like no other. "I can't imagine the mob getting to a better position than they were in Vegas in the Seventies, before they lost it all," the author concludes. "[*Casino*] is *Paradise Lost*, really."

To mark the film's 20th anniversary, GQ has exclusive imagery of *Casino* from behind the scenes. Provided by Phillip Caruso, Robert De Niro's photographer, it offers a vivid insight into how Scorsese's most under-appreciated masterpiece was made. Here Caruso talks us through the movie's most intimate moments. →

DIRECT APPROACH: During the scene in which Rothstein first arrives at the casino, Scorsese (right) discusses the shoot with De Niro



Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese

"This was taken inside the Riviera Casino, our location for the Tangiers [the casino in the film]. During the preliminary discussions there was talk of building a Tangiers set, but eventually Universal stumped up the money for us to be able to film on the floor of the Riviera. This meant we had to start filming at midnight and would finish at 9am, so as not to disturb the gamblers in the casino. We also had to strike the set every night, meaning everything you saw in the casino set that said Tangiers had to be laid every night before being taken away the following morning at 10.30.

At one point, Universal contracted a set of clowns, and I mean that in the literal sense, not metaphorically, to come into the casino and help aid the regular customer traffic by keeping them away from the filming."

HOT PROPERTY: Taking shade from the Nevada desert sun, De Niro (*left*) and Pesci prepare for a confrontational scene between Rothstein and Mafia boss Nicky Santoro



Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci

"For this photo we were out in the desert shooting the scene where Pesci confronts De Niro over his 'I'm the boss' interview. The two were shooting one of the most intense scenes of the movie, so they would take breaks in a tent. They were doing it so they could stay out of the sun and keep their composure, to make sure they could give the intensity the scene needed. But as soon as they stepped off set they were able to break rank quite easily. In one of the scenes, De Niro and Pesci were having an intense conversation with the casino floor manager. The guy playing the manager was real tall, so his head was close to the light fixtures. Then all of a sudden his hair just started smoking, and in the middle of this intense scene De Niro just cracks up and starts laughing at this guy because his hair was on fire. All it would take is for one moment like that for them to turn off the intensity, but when the cameras were rolling they were so professional."

CLEAR BLUE SKIES Stone's Ginger steps on to a private runway in Las Vegas, ahead of the character's escape to LA with Rothstein's millions



Sharon Stone

"*Casino* was one of Sharon's best films. She was nominated for an Academy Award for her role as Ginger and I think it's still her only nomination for an Academy Award. In that role, and at that moment, she was just stellar. When Sharon wasn't filming she would come and hang out at the casino with the crew. It was crazy; nobody would believe that Sharon Stone was hanging out with the grips, electricians and sound engineers. Under Nevada law, the props department isn't allowed to alter the machines in the casino, so while we were shooting we had all these live machines around us. In between setups you would see the actors with chips in their hand playing on the craps table or at the slot machines."



Martin Scorsese and two showgirls

"After shooting the scene with the lion tamer performing on stage, we came across these two showgirls who had been in the background of the shot. And with myself, Pesci and Scorsese all being the same height, the assistant director made us stand in a line to see who was the tallest. This photo is, to me, what Scorsese's personality is. Every day we had to get through the initial bit of script and scheduling, but if I ever said to him, 'Hey, Marty, come over here and let me get a photo of you', he always would. All through the film there were people coming in and out of the set, guys like Frankie Avalon, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, who were all performing in Vegas at the time. And I would just get shots of him and all these guys who came to visit."

TOP OF THE BILL:
Scorsese is flanked at the Riviera's entrance by the showgirls who appear on screen with a live tiger

MADE MEN:
Rothstein's home
was a real address
near Las Vegas
National Golf Course.
Outside, De Niro
(left) and Scorsese
(right) are joined by
Giorgio Armani



Robert De Niro, Giorgio Armani and Martin Scorsese

"Giorgio Armani came by for a visit one day; he literally just walked onto the set to come and see Scorsese. The pair had been friends since *Made In Milan*, and had worked together since on shooting a couple of adverts for Armani. He spent a couple of hours on set with everyone and walked us all through the details of the clothes that had been designed by Rita Ryack, the costume designer. De Niro had a total of 54 wardrobe changes in the movie, and each item was a piece of art in itself. He had all these different shirts and ties made up for him, all in the same material. It was unbelievable. It was totally overwhelming how well De Niro wore the clothes; they looked as though they'd been painted onto him - it was beautiful. I would have loved to own some of the clothes from the movie; the red linen suit he wore at the end of the movie was amazing. We all loved that suit."

EDITED BY SHIKHA SETHI

GROOMING

+ THE SCENT OF SEDUCTION



X
ARUN
JAITAPKAR

IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT NEARLY EVERY BOLLYWOOD ACTOR AND STYLISH ATHLETE IS SPORTING A METICULOUSLY GROOMED BEARD THESE DAYS - NOW EVEN CEOs IN CORNER OFFICES ARE BRISTLING. AND IF YOU'RE BEING HONEST, YOU'RE READY TO JOIN THE BEARD-WAGON YOURSELF. HERE'S HOW TO DO IT RIGHT



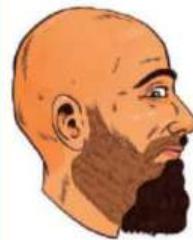


First STOP THE STUBBLE CYCLE

LOOK IN THE MIRROR. If you're like me, you're probably staring at some stubble – growing wherever the hell it damn well pleases, a touch splotchier than you'd like. You shave one day, let your hair grow in for a week, maybe two, then you mow it down and start all over again. This is the Stubble Cycle. You're trying to have your beard both ways – there, but not too there – which means that you just look like you're coming off a drunken bender. As my father often yelled at drivers who obviously sat at a green light: Piss or get off the pot. Man up. Try the beard. It'll take a month, maybe two, to grow in – but then you will look in the mirror again and you will see a new man, a hairier man, a prouder man. – **JON WILDE**

A BEARD IS LIKE TUMMY CONTROL UNDERWEAR (IN A GOOD WAY)

Have a weak chin? Charlie Brown head? A burgeoning beer gut? You can offset it all with facial hair. Seriously. "A beard hides your face shape, so you can create your own," says **Alex Josue**, barber at Baxter Finley Barber & Shop in LA. Here, advice from Josue on how a well-sculpted beard can lead to a less ugly you



THE JOY OF THE TEMPO-BEARD



Some men have facial hair that's old enough to drink, but true connoisseurs understand that beards are gloriously impermanent. Athletes break them out for the IPL season. Jon Hamm seemed to grow one after every season of *Mad Men* – as if going full Bigfoot were his true resting state – then shaved when the show started shooting again. Point being, a great beard doesn't have to live forever. It can just be a break from the usual. Facial hair is cheaper than a whole new wardrobe, less fraught than a radical new haircut. You might decide to shave off your beard six months later. Or you might fall in love with the resting-Hamm look and keep it forever. – **JW**

FADING, FAST

The secret to a pro-grade beard is a pro-grade neck fade. And look, here's pro barber **Miles Elliot** of Freemans Sporting Club Barbershop in NYC on how to do just that



STEP 1

"First, trim your entire beard to the desired length before you begin fading," says Elliot. (See "Get into Gear" on the right for hardware)



STEP 2

Start your neck fade by using the 2 or 3 guard to trim from your Adam's apple to where your jaw meets your neck. Then use the 1 or 2 guard to trim from the Adam's apple up about an inch or so. Anything below the Adam's apple should be as hairless as a baby's bum.



STEP 3

Tidying up the cheeks is a delicate dance. With the guardless trimmer, eradicate the outliers. "You don't want a line so sharp that your beard looks like a chin strap," says Elliot. In beards, as with breasts, natural is always better.



STEP 4

"Last, clean up your moustache by trimming any hairs growing over the lip," says Elliot. You're a man, not a walrus.

The Problem: Bowling-ball head
"Let's say your face is very round," says Josue. "You want to introduce more angles to it, so trim the cheek line" – from your 'burns to your 'stache – "to a slightly more drastic slant than grows naturally."

The Problem: Square hair
"The high and tight haircut with the short, cropped sides is trending now," says Josue, "but it makes the head more square, right? I like to offset that with a beard that's kept short with rounded edges."

The Problem: Beer gut
"For someone who's stockier, bring in the sides of the beard," says Josue. "Just trim straight down from your ears and cheekbones so that part's slightly shorter than your goatee area."

The Problem: Scarecrow body
"If you're tall and lanky, you don't want sharp points or angles in your beard, or you might look like a super-villain," says Josue. "Keep everything natural and more rounded."

Get into Gear

Know what separates the bearded weirdos from the bearded heroes? Upkeep. You don't need a laser-guided vacuuming trimmer - just a few key tools —KRISTEN DOLD



Kent / Beard Comb

Two benefits: It'll get all the hairs moving in the same direction. And it'll make your hands feel huge. flipkart.com



Wahl / Stainless Steel Li+ Trimmer

Thanks to an adjustable guard and a lasts-for-ages battery, this is your primary weapon in tending a beard. wahlgrooming.com



Honest Amish / Beard Balm

A tiny bit of this all-natural stuff will tame big wiry beards so you don't look like you're fronting a ZZ Top cover band. amishbeardcare.com



Kiehl's / Beard Oil

Rub in five drops to prevent dryness (your skin thanks you) and to soften your beard hair (the ladies thank you). kiehlsindia.com

File Under “BULLS#!T”



YOU'LL SEE BEARD SHAMPOO on the shelf of those twee, sage-scented drugstores that call themselves apothecaries. Keep walking. “Regular shampoo or conditioner works just fine on a beard, so long as it’s not a harsh dandruff wash,” says Rob McMillen, head barber for Blind Barber in NYC. More important: Scrub well enough with your daily facewash to clean out all the junk — dirt, bacteria, lunch — that’ll be hiding inside your beard. —KD



A WOMANLY PLEA BEWARE OF THIGH-BURN

A RULE OF THUMB for keeping your facial hair sex-friendly: As below, so above.

Ideally, your face will travel to the same delicate places as your junk, and unruly, scratchy, stubby hair is as problematic on the face as in the ol’ pubic region. Many a lady has seen Yosemite Sam fall on to a cactus and thought, “Been there, girlfriend.” So exercise care.

If you’re lucky enough to have a big, lush beard, keep it neat of silhouette to avoid

poking her eyes during sex. If you have a shag rug on your face, comb out the trash and loose whiskers — no woman likes stopping the action to pick lumberjack floss from her teeth.

Alternately, if you’re keeping your beard fairly short, run the back of your hand over it to be sure you won’t cause thigh-burn while going down on her. And for the love of god, refrain from aggressive sanding motions while you’re there. She’s a lady, not an antique credenza.

—JULIEANNE SMOLINSKI

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SEX IS IN THE AIR IN BARCELONA.

From the W hotel's Wet Deck, lounge music pulsing in the background, I look out at that little strip of heaven known as Barceloneta where all manner of beautiful people are arrayed on the beach: tattooed men with silver hair and silver beards and taut bodies; beautiful women with rounded hips and perfect derrieres, casually adjusting bikini tops to ensure an even tan.

This is the kind of place where even the beach has curves, looping in gentle U's, the waves of the Mediterranean Sea licking the yellow sand, retreating, then rushing back in to taste it again.

Back at the Wet lounge, the young waiters and waitresses look like they've just come off a tennis court: fit, athletic, supple bronze skin gleaming against white polo tees and shorts as they glide around the pool area efficiently, serving up exotic cocktails. It all feels a bit like

Miami or LA, but with less botox and happier vibes.

It's appropriate then that my first encounter with The Scent, a new fragrance by Hugo Boss that's all about seduction, should take place in this city brimming over with a relaxed, sensual energy. Which morphs into something altogether wilder once the sun sets and the cava starts flowing at an intimate dinner launch at the Joan Brossa gardens, named for the famous Surrealist poet. Amid this gathering of beautiful, impeccably clothed men, one stands out: tall, bearded, elegant in an unstructured suit, radiating a kind of animal magnetism.

While many of Boss' fragrance campaigns employ the imagery of hyper-successful men, all sharp angles and raw power, the fragrances themselves are much more well-rounded. For example, the brand ambassador for Boss Bottled – a bottle of which is sold every few seconds – may →



IMAGE: HELY COMPOS (MURAL), GETTY IMAGES; WORDS: SHIKHA SETHI



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THE SCENT IS A BEGUILING FRAGRANCE WITH TWISTS AND TURNS APLENTY - AN OLFACTORY STORY OF SEDUCTION. IT KICKS OFF WITH SMOKY LEATHER, UPS THE ANTE WITH SPICY GINGER, AND FINISHES WITH A FINAL RELEASE OF MANINKA FRUIT, CHARACTERIZED BY A DARK CHOCOLATE NOTE

be alpha male Gerard Butler, but Boss Bottled's defining ingredient isn't musk or ambergris but rather a hint of rose oil.

In The Scent, which has been over two years in the making, Hugo Boss has created another winner - this one with an actual aphrodisiac, maninka, sourced from an estate in South Africa. The result is a beguiling fragrance with twists and turns aplenty, an olfactory story of seduction. It kicks off with smoky leather and crisp and floral lavender and ups the ante with spicy ginger, with a final release of maninka fruit, characterized by a dark chocolate note ("Think of a chocolate dipped in strawberry," says fragrance designer Will Andrews).

The promise of seduction is par for the course with most fragrances, and there's a good reason for this: Smelling good

makes us much more attractive to the opposite sex. It's an olfactory imprint of who we are, a lingering reminder of our presence even when we are no longer there. Which is why men would do well to choose their signature scent with care, instead of spritzing on whatever's lying in the bathroom or the scent their ex-girlfriend gifted them.

I will probably never see my stranger again, but whenever I smell The Scent, I am reminded of that sultry evening in Barcelona, and of him. Seduction is an art, a delicate balancing act between control and surrender. It is not a game all men can play. When done right, it is about feeding a slow-burning flame, so that it grows in intensity, awakening and heightening the senses. If a scent can help you achieve your endgame faster, why the hell not? ☺

HOW TO MAKE YOUR FRAGRANCE LAST LONGER

- Treat your scent like a fine wine:** Store it in a cool, dark place that has a steady temperature, like the drawer of your dressing table or in your wardrobe. Big changes in temperature are terrible - which is why your bathroom shelf is the worst possible place to keep your bottle.

- Keep your bottle in the fridge.** A cold spritz of your favourite scent can be delightfully refreshing.

- Avoid direct sunlight.** It will cook the juice and eventually your scent will start smelling stewed. You always know when a fresh, citrusy fragrance has gone bad, because it starts smelling vinegary.

GQ TIP: Sometimes fragrances go darker, but they're still safe to wear. Junk yours only if it starts smelling off. Most have a shelf life of three years once opened, but start losing their potency after the first year.

LIKE A BOSS: 6 QUESTIONS WITH THEO JAMES

Hot off the success of the *Divergent* films with co-star Shailene Woodley, the witty British actor will soon be sharing screen space with Rooney Mara in *The Secret Scripture* and Cara Delevingne in *London Fields*. We caught up with the Manny Pacquiao fan and brand ambassador for The Scent in Barcelona

1 When's the last time you were here in Barcelona?

For a friend's bachelor party. It got pretty crazy. We lost the groom for 24 hours...

world where people share every detail of their lives on social media. You don't have to do that. Be solid enough to only share what you need to.

starting with a bit of Miles Davis, and then when things move on, some Rolling Stones. Finish with Otis Redding. Absolutely no Madonna!

2 Is mystery an important part of seduction?

Yes, having a hint of mystery about you is very important. This is what I like about Hugo Boss' campaign [for The Scent], which was shot by Darren Aronofsky. It's about memory and the idea of what you remember about someone through smell and through pieces of them. We live in a

3 Can you share some tips for nailing that first date?

Make stupid jokes that will put her at ease. Play good music if you're inviting her over. Don't try too hard or talk about money - never talk about money on a first date.

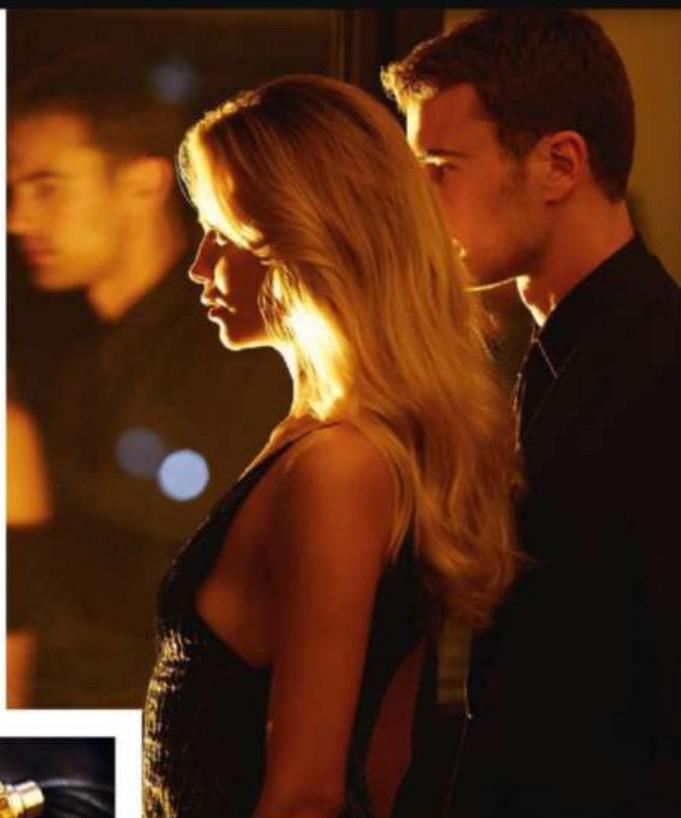
5 What's the best film on attraction you've seen?

The French film *Breathless* by Jean Luc Godard is a masterclass on the art of seduction.

4 How should you get her in the mood?

Plan the perfect playlist. I'd recommend

6 The Scent...
Is like "Body And Soul" by John Coltrane, timeless and cool.





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L to R: Kapil Chopra, President, The Oberoi Group with Philipp von Sahr, President, BMW Group India

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DREAM DISCOVER EXPLORE THR

A photograph of a man with dark hair and glasses looking out from a window of a moving train. The train's exterior is visible, showing wooden panels and metal railings. The background is blurred, suggesting motion.

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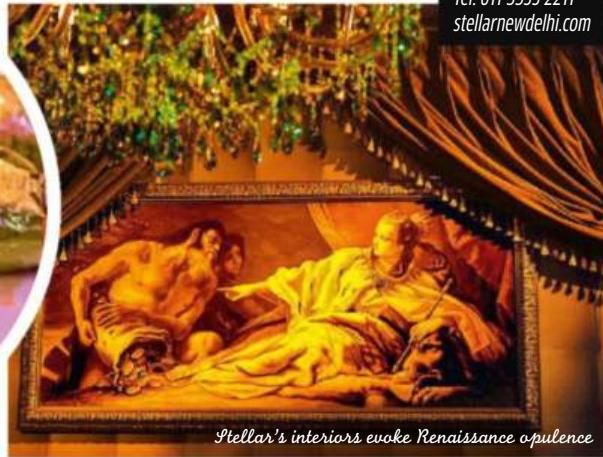
ENTER STELLAR

An afternoon of lounging on velvet sofas with a stiff drink and good company? Yes, please

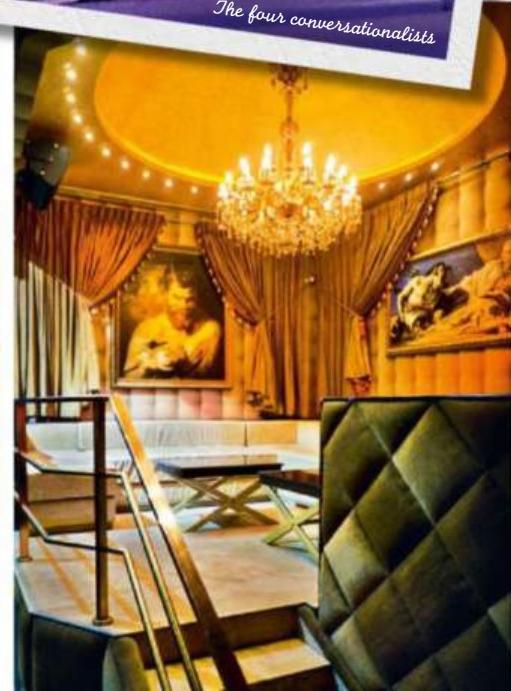
The Stellar New Delhi at The Ashok is the place to see how the swish set get their groove on – private bottle banks, VIP managers and interiors that could well be found in a millionaire's penthouse. A fitting backdrop, then, for a tête-à-tête with this month's eclectic set of gentlemen: **Peter d'Ascoli**, **Jeet Thayil**, **Manak Singh** and **Parikshit Luthra**. In between sips of Chivas on the rocks and an array of canapés, the conversation centred around the Oedipal nature of saris. In between more restrained discussions, of course. ☺



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011-4108 9582; Bengaluru,
080-4098 6227

Canali Mumbai, Palladium,
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DLF Emporio, 011-4604 0731;
Bengaluru, UB City,
080-4173 8004

Diesel Mumbai, 022-2661
8282; Delhi, DLF Emporio,
011-4052 3915; Bengaluru,
UB City, 080-4173 8004

Cartier Mumbai, Rose
The Watch Bar,
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011-4678 8888; Bengaluru,
Rodeo Drive, 080-4124 8471

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Pack smart ↑

Vox, an all-new luggage line from Samsonite, solves packing problems with its smart interior system of packing cubes. With a waterproof cube for shoes, a wrinkle-resistant cube for shirts and a 17-inch sleeve for laptops and tablets, Vox lets you pack efficiently and access your belongings with ease while you are in transit. Available in three sizes, Vox also features a lightweight lid compartment, a multi-stop pull handle, a soft top handle, all-direction wheels and a TSA combination lock.

- Priced between ₹22,500 and 29,800. Available at exclusive Samsonite and select Samsonite Black Label stores across India



A storyteller's pen ↑

Whether it's a crusty fisherman narrating a tale of conquering the sea or a gentleman in a suit spinning yarn about a horse with winged feet, storytelling is a skill every Englishman possesses in good measure. William Penn – India's only multi-brand retail store chain that houses premium writing instruments – presents Lapis Bard, an exclusive range of accessories and pens that laud the spirit of the English gent who's a storyteller at heart.

- Priced ₹9,500 (Ball Pen) and ₹18,500 (Fountain Pen). Available at William Penn stores across India



Meet the loafer ↑

Clarks channels the Seventies vibe by recreating Vacator – the first-ever loafers crafted by the brand. A classic design with a contemporary twist, these shoes are a perfect combination of style and all-day comfort. Their versatile design allows you to pair them with both formals and casuals. Available in racy colours like rust and blue, the Vacator in its new avatar is all the rage on fashion-week runways this season.

- Priced ₹6,999. Available at Clarks stores across India. Shop online at clarks.in



Blue darkness ←

Cool and sharp, with great depth and individuality, *for him bleu noir* by Narciso Rodriguez is a new enigmatic and extremely seductive perfume that redefines masculine sensuality. While its name and dark blue flacon are inspired by the designer's passion for the profound nuances of the night sky, *for him bleu noir* is heightened by spicy and musky notes of cardamom, nutmeg, cedar and ebony wood.

- Priced ₹3,500 (50ml) and ₹4,750 (100ml). Available at Parcos outlets across India

Sartorial prestige →

This season make an individualistic style statement as Prestige – The Man Store brings you an all-new line of bundis, waistcoats and trousers for the upcoming festive season. Renowned for its exceptional fits and bespoke tailoring for half a century, Prestige – The Man Store stocks ensembles that are crafted from the finest fabrics and customized perfectly to the meet discerning tastes of a style-conscious gentleman.

- Prices on request. Available at exclusive Prestige – The Man Store outlets in Bangalore and Chennai or shop online at prestigethemanstore.com





Casual flair ↑

Distinguished by the unmistakable shark logo, Paul&Shark – a lifestyle sportswear brand – unveils a new line of leisure and weekend wear for the season. Comprising elegant polos, shirts, knits and jackets that can be stylishly teamed with denims and trousers, Paul&Shark's collection also offers an extremely wide and varied collection of accessories like wallets, shoes, belts, scarves and gloves to complete the look.

- Prices on request. For more information, visit paulshark.it



Accessorize

Go from a day at work to a night of non-stop partying without straining your feet. Johnston & Murphy – leading men's accessory brand – unveils its Autumn/Winter 2015-16 Collection with stylish yet extremely comfortable shoes. Made from Italian calfskin leather, cushioned with foam, molded polyurethane in-soles, and built with the lightweight Bondwelt construction, these shoes are perfect for the upcoming party season. Pair them with a dapper suit and a Johnston & Murphy belt, crafted from the finest leather.

- Price on request. Available at Linking Road, Khar West, Mumbai

Run with it →

PUMA pays tribute to its sports heritage with its Autumn/Winter 2015-16 Collection, which features IGNITE XT – the newest addition to the IGNITE range. Worn by Usain Bolt, the fastest runner in the world, these shoes are designed to pack the punch into every training session. IGNITE XT shoes feature a full-length Ignite Foam Midsole, which provides optimum cushioning, a full-length Flex Groove that enables faster, multi-directional movement and a thick heel, padded on the medial and lateral areas to offer better support.

- Priced ₹7,999. Available at Puma stores across India



← Stay effortless

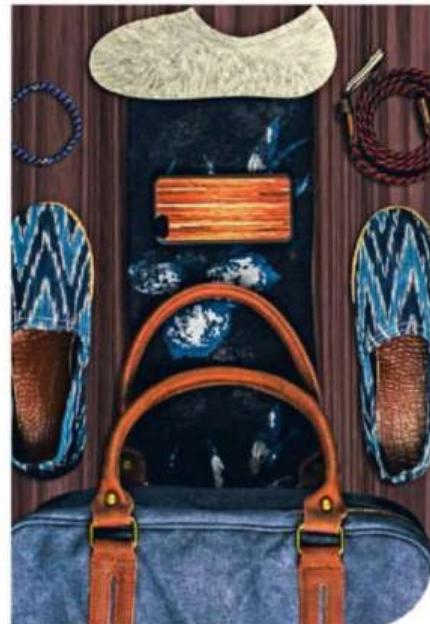
As temperatures drop, layer up with this stylish faux leather jacket from the Autumn/Winter 2015-16 collection by Being Human. With a built-in hood and double layer, the jacket will keep you warm all winter long. Furthermore, this collection explores four big trends – Athleisure, Military Grunge, Collegiate and Modern Bohemian, that allow you to radiate a casual vibe.

- Priced ₹7,500. Available exclusively at Being Human across India. For more information, visit beinghumanclothing.com

Winter is coming →

Considering a tropical vacation to escape the chill? Perhaps it's one that involves an exotic island in the Indian Ocean. But with Autumn/Winter trends hitting stores, finding the right resort wear may be a tad bit difficult. Consider Zobello – an exclusive fashion label for men – before it unveils its season's collection. From T-shirts, chinos and cargo pants to shorts, swimwear and more, this brand has it all. Hurry, this may be your last chance to stock up on summer wear.

- Prices on request. For more information, visit zobello.com



Dear weekend warriors of Hauz Khas Village,

Fuck you. And your dad's sportscar with those 24-inch rims that you drove in on. And the sunroof you've been hanging out of like a scarecrow warding away anyone with any taste or self-respect. Fuck your bored, sexually unsatisfied girlfriends, your laxative cocaine, boot-polish charas and low alcohol tolerance, which makes you yourselves highly intolerable, you wreckers of all things good, you so-called people.

Once upon a time – 2009 and a bit of 2010, more or less – we'd come around the back of Aurobindo Market and feel the temperature drop a couple of blessed degrees, hum past a few misted-out Mughal ruins, and in a couple of minutes be ducking under that weird traffic barrier demarcating our own little Narnia from the rest of big, bad, smelly Delhi.

In this magic micro-hamlet we would stroll peacefully among the smattering of idiosyncratic antique shops, finding our way to that wonderful restaurant with the superlative appams, the beer in plastic cups and the view of Hauz Khas lake. If we were still able to walk after our gavage of curry and beef fry, we'd stop in at that one rooftop pub for some pints, likely get a bit swervier than was good for us, curse the lack of waiting rickshaws after midnight, but quickly resume appreciation of the quietude, which would sate any of the week's remaining urban malaise.

Yeah, that's all gone now. These days, the concrete carpet to Hauz Khas Village is packed with all you lame-ass douche-kazoos, flailing around like packs of teenage girls at their first Justin Bieber concert, like this is the only place in Delhi where anything approaching fun is possible. Which, to your credit, bros, is completely true. And that's why you're here. We're just saying you're a scourge of

misfiring sexual repression, ignoble savages feigning bipedalism by Lacoste, grown men who live in subservient misanthropy with their parents, out on a one-night pass to a world you crave but do not understand. You guys have all the self-awareness of a knot of cane toads.

Maybe that's why every time we return to HKV, there are six new bars, each with themes more unintelligible than a faux-Irish Bob Marley karaoke sports pub – because while these bar owners know they want your soggy, flaccid money, they just don't know what you actually want from these blessed places any more than you do.

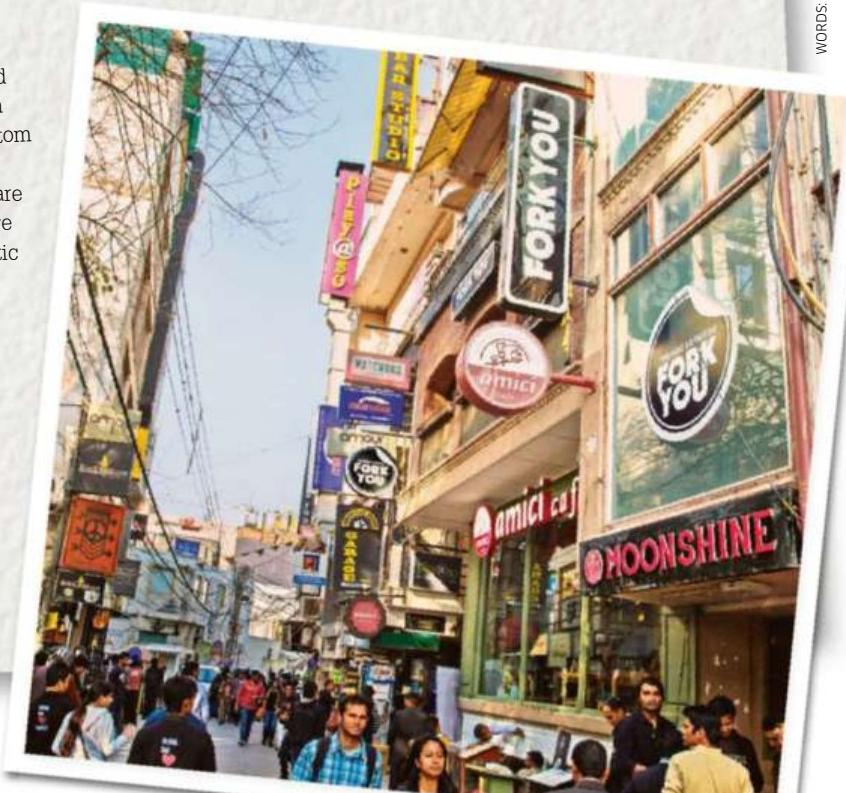
Well let us tell you want you want: Select Citywalk. You should be with all those other stunted children with borrowed credit cards, where you can sneak out of Khan Chacha for a few ales after you've told the auntie patrol you were off to Baskin Robbins. Go to the mall. Be with your people.

We stay away from HKV for a while, mock it, and then try again. But it only ever gets worse. Even after recharging ourselves with the spiritual resolve to make it through Delhi's weekly "Everybody Hurts" traffic jam and into the place, it's never anything less than a world of pain and torment.

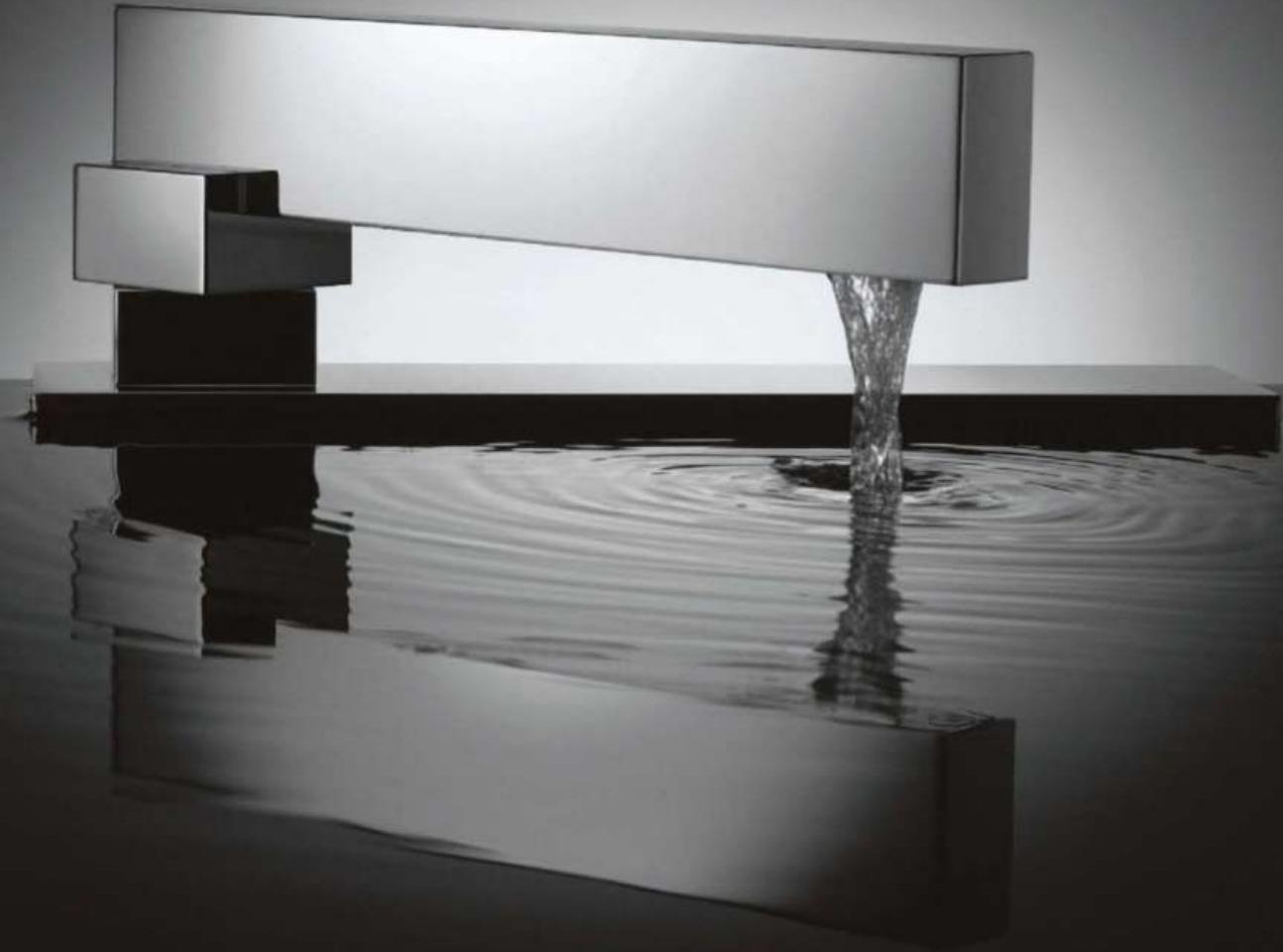
Upon seeing this rot from afar, no other autonomously governed urban village in Delhi is willing to be the needed agent of social diffusion. Because only sharing the burden would keep this pseudo-Sodom from sinking into the bottom of the lake under its own crap-ness. But Shahpur Jat is having none of this. Lado Sarai has decided art galleries are less hassle. Even Chris Martin didn't want to go anywhere past that weird security barrier, doing his surprise acoustic set at nearby Aurobindo Market – which, the next day, some journalists referred to as Hauz Khas Village, so unable are we to imagine this sort of scene in any other part of Delhi, the un-fun capital of Asia.

See you in Mumbai when you figure out Bandra,

GQ India



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